



No 3,634

THE INDEPENDENT

FRIDAY 12 JUNE 1998

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on heels

NEW DESIGN SECTION

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the druidPLUS MORE COMMENT,
MUSIC, ARTS, LISTINGS

& LAW

Nato set
to bomb
MilosevicBY RUPERT CORNWELL
and KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

NATO last night confronted Slobodan Milosevic with the explicit threat of military force to end Serbia's violent crackdown in Kosovo, on the eve of a final warning from the major powers that he start serious political negotiations with the ethnic Albanian majority in the province.

In Brussels, defence ministers of the 16-nation alliance instructed their military commanders to draw up plans to "halt or disrupt" the fighting in Kosovo, which has taken at least 300 lives this year and forced more 50,000 people to flee their homes.

But in Kosovo itself, there were reports last night that Serbian forces may be about to start another offensive. Unconfirmed reports said troops and security police were planning to attack guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army, east of the town of Kline, in an area that has been under effective KLA control for over a month.

Meanwhile, in a diplomatic move which could hold the key to a peaceful solution, President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, Serbia's Orthodox ally, will meet Mr Milosevic in Moscow to press him to reach a political settlement.

Insisting the West would not tolerate another Bosnia, George Robertson, Britain's Secretary of State for Defence, said that Mr Milosevic would be

"rash and foolish" to dismiss the warnings. "All options are available to us," he declared. "We are ruling nothing in and nothing out."

Among those options is direct intervention on the ground, though this is plainly a last resort. Air strikes were the "natural" choice, Mr Robertson said, but other possibilities include electronic warfare, a no-fly zone, and a no-entry zone for heavy military equipment.

In London today, the six-

"My father worked here as a council official... until the Serbs fired all the Albanians nine years ago," a young girl whispered beside me. "Now he stays at home and rests."

Robert Fisk reports
from Kosovo, page 13

nation Contact Group - Britain, the US, Russia, France, Germany and Italy - will demand an immediate end to the violence, the withdrawal of special Serbian police units, the resumption of genuine political negotiations on a new status for Kosovo, with international mediation if required, and full access to humanitarian groups and war crimes investigators.

Thus far, such demands, and an array of economic sanctions, have been ignored by Mr Milosevic, and last night the

response to Nato's latest moves was as truculent as ever. "We are a sovereign country," said Ivica Dacic of the ruling Socialist party. "Without our consent, no actions of any international alliance can be carried out on our territory."

But never has the threat of military force been as clear out. Live-fire Nato air exercises over neighbouring Albania and Macedonia could start within days, and the German defence minister, Volker Ruehe, spelt out that if air strikes went ahead they would be aimed not only at Serb targets in Kosovo, but across Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav air force still has about 30 serviceable MiG29 aircraft in two separate squadrons, but has only obsolete radar cover and ground-to-air systems, which could be disrupted by Nato jamming.

The unknown remains Russia, opponent of both military intervention and economic sanctions, and the one mediator that Mr Milosevic - though not necessarily the West - might trust. British officials hope today's talks will produce a common stand that Mr Yeltsin will present to Mr Milosevic.

If not, then things become more complicated. Prior approval by the United Nations for Nato military strikes ("desirable" but not absolutely necessary, William Cohen, the US defense secretary, claimed yesterday) could be blocked by a Russian veto, casting doubt on the legality of the enterprise.



Refugees from Kosovo being taken by truck to the town of Bajram Curri, after crossing the border into Albania AP

Widow
cleared
of killing
inherits
fortune

BY KIM SENGUPTA

THE WIDOW cleared of the murder of her millionaire husband has inherited around £500,000 from his estate.

Linda Watson's counsel told the Old Bailey, when she was formally acquitted on Monday, that her husband Richard, who owned a computer company, had not left a will and at his death she did not stand to gain.

But last night her solicitor, Chris Lewis, confirmed that Ms Watson will inherit money, including an amount from the proceeds of the marital home in East Grinstead, Sussex, which was sold for £230,000. Friends of Ms Watson point out she would have got much more from a proposed divorce settlement discussed last year with her husband.

Ms Watson and her daughter, Amanda London-Williams, say they are taking legal advice on suing the police for their ordeal. Their lawyers are considering claims, ranging from wrongful arrest to malicious prosecution, after the case collapsed when the prosecution offered no evidence.

If they bring civil proceedings, mother and daughter would have to give evidence in court, something they did not have the opportunity to do at their brief Old Bailey appearance.

Ms Watson says she has no confidence in the way detectives from Sussex Police had handled the investigation. She has already withdrawn her £30,000 share of a £50,000 reward offered for information leading to the arrest of the gunman who killed Mr Watson. Detectives have stressed that the inquiry will not be closed down.

Tale not over, page 3

Mint for sale in Brown's big auction

A SALE of assets, from the Royal Mint to motorway service stations, was slashed yesterday by the Chancellor to help create a £30bn war chest of sweeteners for the next general election.

Gordon Brown's radical plan to raise £4bn a year for investment in schools, health, housing and transport included the sale of assets such as the air-traffic control system which even the Tories dared not touch.

He also disclosed that tight public spending controls should provide budget surpluses of £7bn, £10bn and £13bn over the next three years. Although he gave no clues as to how the surplus might be spent, it could

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

leave him room to slash taxes for the low-paid before the election, achieving a target that the Tories never reached.

His strategy combined Thatcherite principles with a taste of socialism, and embraced some of the ideas for "sweating public assets" pioneered by John Prescott, foreshadowed this week in *The Independent*.

With the Deputy Prime Minister at his side, the Chancellor gave a statement which stunned MPs and led to Tory cheers of "more". Mr Brown said the partial or majority sell-offs would include: the Com-

monwealth Development Corporation; the Royal Mint; National Air Traffic Services; student loans; debt held in British Energy; and licences to operate the new generation of mobile telecoms services.

Local authorities are being told to sell off assets, including council housing, to reinvest in new housing.

Whitehall departments have been told to offer for sale surplus land, buildings and goods identified in their ministerial "Domesday" book. George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, has been told to sell off more land, and grace-and-favour houses for the "brass hats". The Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture,



Sell-off: Gordon Brown

whose department holds heritage assets, including the national art store, has also been told to find items for sale.

Opposition parties said Mr Brown was building up a £30bn war chest for the next election. But it could lead to pressure from Labour MPs who rebelled over the imposition of student tuition fees for a relaxation of the spending controls.

The Chancellor is proposing growth of 2.5 per cent in spending over the next three years, but the Liberal Democrat spokesman, Malcolm Bruce, said that would be the equivalent of only 1.5 per cent growth in spending over the five years of a parliament, lower than the 1.8 per cent over the 18 years of the Tories' term of office.

Francis Maude, the Tory spokesman, said the sales showed the spending review

had not produced the reductions needed for the pledged increases in health and education.

The results of the review will be announced in mid-July. The Cabinet Public Expenditure Committee, which yesterday met to endorse the Chancellor's strategy, is still engaged in reducing departmental bids.

Mr Brown announced that Whitehall departments would be kept to the totals already announced for the next three years, abolishing the annual haggling by ministers for more.

Britain's debt as a proportion of gross domestic product will be kept to 40 per cent or lower, compared to 45 per cent inherited from the Tories.

Bolt from the blue solves mystery of missing hikers

THE ANNUAL mystery of solo hikers found dead in the mountains with no apparent cause may have a solution. Doctors suggest that these deaths may be the result of near-miss lightning strikes generating a huge magnetic pulse.

Each summer, reports of lone walkers and climbers found dead in isolated spots baffled doctors and relatives who are left to grieve without any ex-

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

planation of what can have caused the death. Now experts from the lightning data centre in Denver, US, have studied a case in which lightning killed without leaving a mark.

Four golfers were sheltering under a tree during a thunderstorm when it was struck by a bolt of lightning. One of the

golfers, a 32-year-old man, collapsed with a heart attack. A doctor who happened to be nearby gave him artificial resuscitation before the man was taken to hospital but he died without regaining consciousness 18 days later.

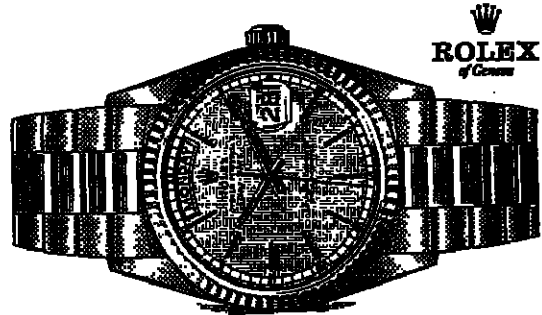
Of the remaining three golfers, one had superficial burns on his head, neck and abdomen and the other two were knocked unconscious for a short time but were otherwise unhurt. The man who died had no burn marks on him to suggest he had been struck by lightning.

Dr Michael Cherington and colleagues suggest in a letter to *The Lancet* that the cause of his death may have been the intense electromagnetic discharge of the lightning passing close by which induced a current in his body sufficient to

stop his heart. They say: "The lightning may induce a loop current within the human torso without evidence of current entering the body. If these currents occur during a vulnerable part of the cardiac cycle, they could cause asystole [stopped heart beat] or ventricular fibrillation [an often fatal abnormal heart rhythm]."

The authors suggest that the mechanism "may explain some unwitnessed and unexplained heart attacks" among hikers who are found dead in the mountains.

Weather forecasters advise that the most important thing to remember when caught in a thunderstorm is not to be the tallest object around. One said: "If you find yourself in a wide open field the best advice is to lie down. It is very unwise to shelter under a tree."

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OYSTERS.
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FROM OUR
FOOD HALLS).

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over mad cow
disease went
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Union was a flop,
the Tories claimed

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Pakistan has called a
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Blackburn Rovers
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HOME NEWS

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Judge criticises legal aid plans

The country's most senior judge warned Government plans to cut legal aid were full of "potentially fateful consequences" and implied they could prevent some poor people from obtaining justice. Page 6

Tips to count for minimum wage

A proposal that "tips" to waiters and other low paid workers should count towards the national minimum wage was attacked by left-wingers and unions. Page 6

Have-a-go pensioner beaten up

A pensioner is on a life support machine after being savagely beaten by a gang of youths as he and his son tried to stop them vandalising a fence. Page 7

Tube makes a record £265m

London Underground made record "profits" of £265m last year while failing to meet nearly all government-agreed performance targets. Page 12

FOREIGN NEWS

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Probe into Indonesian riot claim

Indonesia's new President ordered the military to investigate claims that riots which killed almost 1,200 people last month were organised by the army. Page 15

Clinton defends visit to China

President Clinton moved to combat mounting criticism of his visit to China later this month with a no-holds-barred defence of his foreign policy. Page 17

Death penalty call for Klan killing

Pressure is building for the death penalty to be applied to the three suspects charged with killing a black man in Texas by dragging him behind their truck. Page 17

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Goldman Sachs to vote on float

Goldman Sachs partners are poised to vote strongly in favour tomorrow of a \$350n flotation of the US bank, according to the latest soundings. Page 18

UK firms 'want shares in Euros'

UK companies have made it clear to the Department of Trade and Industry they want it to be made easy to redenominate their share capital into Euros at any time after 1 January 1999. Page 21

Tesco confirms sales slowdown

Tesco confirmed the slowdown in the supermarket sector when it announced sales growth of 4.8 per cent in the first 14 weeks of the current year. Page 21

SPORTS NEWS

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Nigel Mansell hits a setback

Nigel Mansell's return to touring car racing suffered a setback when his car was badly damaged in a collision while testing for the British Championship. Page 27

Injury forces Els out of Buick

Ernie Els, the world's No 1 ranked golfer, was forced to withdraw with a back injury after nine holes of the Buick Classic in New York. Page 25

FRIDAY REVIEW

24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Suzanne Moore

'Coming out isn't what it used to be. The general reaction to these announcements of MPs' gayness appears to be one of utter indifference.' Page 3

Michael Portillo

'The Tories are timid about reforming the NHS, tending to shift the deckchairs around rather than addressing the basic funding problem.' Page 4

Gavin Esler

'For many decent people Martin Luther King's Dream still does not exist. The heart of darkness within American society is that racism remains strong and dangerous.' Page 5

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Firms wage war on the Euro

MORE THAN 100 leading businessmen yesterday launched a £1m campaign against the European single currency, claiming the venture was too risky.

Yesterday, at the launch of Business for Sterling, the former British Rail chairman and Labour minister, Lord Marsh, pointed to a new £500m investment by Honda as proof that Britain could survive outside Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

The group is backed by the heads of the Institute of Directors and Federation of Small Businesses, but says that its re-

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

sources will never match those pumped in by Europe for pro-EMU campaigns.

Lord Marsh said the organisation would open a campaign office. It would raise whatever funds were necessary to put its case across, he added.

"This organisation kills the argument that business is in favour of entry. There is a serious argument to be had because to a lot of businessmen it is something they fear and worry about," he said.

Britain would not suffer by staying out of EMU, even for a considerable time, he said, but there were grave dangers in joining. Britain's economy was different in many ways from those in the rest of Europe.

"If there is a collapse over the next two or three years and we are members, we will suffer more than any other country in Europe," he said.

Business For Sterling, a non-party political organisation, would lobby against joining EMU unless it was proved an absolute success, he added. However, he ruled out taking

the attitude that Britain should never join EMU on the grounds of national sovereignty.

Tim Melville-Ross, director-general of the Institute of Directors, was among supporters present at the launch.

"Many UK businesses just haven't heard the arguments against EMU before - it is a matter of education. The danger is that many companies try to stay on message with the Government and are unaware of the wider economic difficulties that joining EMU could cause," he said.

"The problem is one of

power as well. UK citizens have the power to throw out their government, as happened in 1997. But at the European level they will not have such a democratic right. Therefore, there are tremendous political as well as economic dangers."

Brian Prime, executive director of the Federation of Small Businesses, said conservative estimates put the cost of introducing the single currency at £57bn.

However, the European Movement responded by claiming that most business people actually supported joining the

single currency. One of the movement's supporters, the chairman of Abbey National Lord Tugendhat, said that Britain should join soon in order to help shape events.

"We will be better placed to help shape the new currency as well as to influence other issues of great concern to us within Europe and beyond if we participate as soon as circumstances permit."

The opportunities provided by the Euro area will help to enhance the competitiveness of our economy and our companies," he said.

Archer: I'm a victim of new British disease

A NEW "British disease" of building people up and then tearing them down was identified by Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare yesterday.

The beleaguered peer revealed in this week's Spectator that he had considered giving up public life, but his sons had persuaded him to carry on.

"What sort of example can it be to the young people of this country if figures such as I simply stand down each and every time we are vilified?" he asked.

Lord Archer attempted to draw a line under the allegations made against him, saying he had answered them "line by line" in the London Evening Standard on Tuesday. That response raised further questions and contradictions but Lord Archer wrote: "I will not deal with these issues again."

He said that English justice was built on the jury system and a presumption of innocence. "When I was accused over the Monica Coghlan affair, the jury found unanimously in my favour and awarded me a symbolic £500,000 in damages."

"And yet anyone can still take a crack at me at any time they like just by saying under their breath, 'Don't forget the business of the prostitute.'"

"And they can fill a couple more column inches by referring darkly to the 'unanswered

BY ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

questions about Anglia shares. The Department of Trade and Industry set up an independent inquiry, headed by a prominent QC. They grilled me, my wife and my acquaintances for many hours, in great detail and under oath... the DTI concluded that a jury of '12 good men and true' would be likely to find me innocent."

"How much longer can people attack me with a nod and a wink and a snigger? The answer, of course, is forever. But let us be quite clear about this: what they are really attacking is not just me, but the whole idea of British justice and fair play."

He said it did not matter if he was attacked week after week. "I expect to be attacked. Whoever succeeds in becoming mayor will be scrutinised and criticised for everything they do. That's part of the job."

This was part of the new British disease. "We are getting too much joy out of sly and nasty comments. We delight in destruction. We build people up to tear them down..."

"Why would anyone want to set out to succeed in the public arena... if they know in advance that the moment they get close to their ambition, people will try to destroy them?"



Cheltenham Ladies College pupils Gemma Charrington (front left) and Genevieve Tofield try out the school sixth-form's new uniform while Rachel Redmond (seated) reminds them of the old version

Record audiences for World Cup

AT LEAST 16 million "stay at home" viewers will tune into England's first World Cup game on Monday according to BBC estimates after Scotland's opening game pulled in a record audience of 14 million.

The France '98 opening game between Brazil and Scotland, which kicked off at 4.30pm, nearly tripled the average at-

BY JANINE GIBSON
Media Correspondent

ternoon audience on the main channels. It is the largest ever rating for a World Cup opening game, overshadowing even the Euro '96 England vs Scotland match, which pulled in 11.7 million viewers.

Described by the BBC as

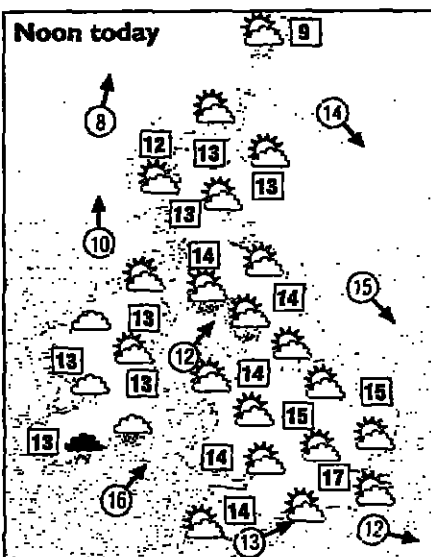
"sensational", the unprecedented numbers tuning in bode ill for employers expecting a full turn out of staff on Monday.

England's opening match against Tunisia kicks off even earlier, at 1.30pm, and BBC insiders predict at least 16 million "stay at home" for the true beginning of World Cup fever.

Wednesday's match at-

tracted an average of 12 million viewers at kick-off with a steady build-up to a peak of 14 million as people arrived home from work at 6pm. The actual viewing figures for the game will have been even higher as ratings statistics only include viewers watching from home, not those watching in pubs, clubs or at work.

BRITAIN TODAY



Scotland will have a cold start then spells of sunshine through the day, with isolated showers, mostly over the mountains but also across the Northern Isles. Northern Ireland will see some sunshine but cloud will increase later, heralding rain after dark. England and Wales will dawn cold but quite sunny clouds will increase but there will be sunny spells during the afternoon with only isolated showers but the south-west will cloud over with steadier rain before evening.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Most of Scotland will be dry tomorrow with sunny spells and some isolated showers, although both the Northern Isles and the Borders may have rain for a while. Northern Ireland will see rain clearing to a mixture of sun and showers. Much of England and Wales will be wet and breezy but the heaviest rain will become confined to the east and south-east of England. On Sunday there will be sunny spells and scattered showers across most of the country. Friday will remain cold but June but most parts will be dry with sunny spells and less wind. However, there will be increasing cloud in Northern Ireland during the afternoon heralding overnight rain. That rain will move east overnight to clear eastern England early Saturday, then the weekend will be sunnier, cool and breezy with a mix of sun and showers rain, the showers turning heavy at times. There are no signs of any improvement in temperatures for the following weeks.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

Belfast	22.00	to	04.47
Birmingham	21.30	to	04.44
Bristol	21.27	to	04.53
Glasgow	22.02	to	04.32
London	21.18	to	04.43
Manchester	21.38	to	04.40
Newcastle	21.45	to	04.27

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	03:59	7.0	16:15	7.1
Liverpool	01:09	9.2	13:29	9.0
Abercromby	08:33	12.7	21:42	12.9
Hull (Albert Dock)	08:27	8.4	20:53	8.2
Greenock	02:41	3.2	14:51	3.0
Dun Laoghaire	01:25	3.9	13:54	3.8

AIR QUALITY

	Today's reading	NO ₂	Pollen	O ₃	Gd
London	Mod	Mod	Mod/High	Gd	Gd
S. England	Gd	Mod	Mod	Gd	Gd
Wales	Gd	Mod	Mod	Gd	Gd
N. England	Mod	Mod	Mod	Gd	Gd
Scotland	Gd	Mod	Mod	Gd	Gd
N. Ireland	Gd	Mod	Mod	Gd	Gd

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	04.43
Sun sets:	21.18
Moon rises:	22.57
Moon sets:	07.04

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts visit 6881 5009 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the map (right). Source: The Met. Office. Call charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

YESTERDAY

BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

Most recent available figure at noon local time.

KEY: C, cloudy; Cl, clear; F, fair; Fg, fog; H, haze; M, mist; R, rain; S, strong; Sh, shower; Ss, snow; Th, thunder.

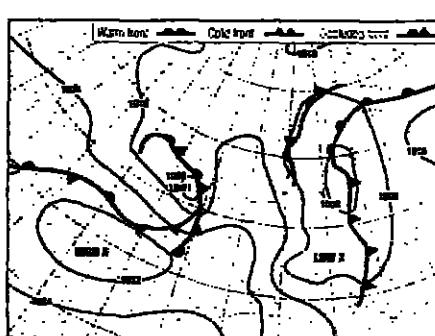
Aberdeen	Sh	8	46
Anglesey	Sh	13	55
Ayr	Sh	12	54
Belfast	Sh	12	55
Birmingham	C	10	50
Bournemouth	C	9	46
Brighton	C	11	52
Bristol	C	12	54
Cardiff	C	13	55
Carlisle	C	13	55
Dover	Sh	13	55
Dublin	Sh	13	55
Edinburgh	Sh	12	54
Exeter	F	12	54
Glasgow	F	14	57
Guernsey	Sh	9	48
Inverness	Sh	11	52
Isle of Man	Sh	12	54
Isle of Wight	C	13	55
Jarvis	Sh	10	50
Jersey	Sh	10	50
Liverpool	Sh	12	54
London	Sh	12	54
Manchester	Sh	10	50
Newcastle	Sh	8	46
Oxford	Sh	12	54
Plymouth	Sh	10	50
Scarborough	Sh	10	50
Southampton	Sh	10	50
Southend	Sh	14	57
Stornoway	C	10	50
York	C	11	52

AIR QUALITY

	Yesterday's reading	NO ₂	Pollen	O ₃	Gd
London	Gd	Mod	Mod	Gd	Gd
S. England	Gd	Mod	Mod	Gd	Gd
Wales	Gd	Mod	Mod	Gd	Gd
N. England	Gd	Mod	Mod	Gd	Gd
Scotland	Gd	Mod	Mod	Gd	Gd
N. Ireland	Gd	Mod	Mod	Gd	Gd

THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



Low I will slide eastwards with little change in central pressure. Low X will move towards the Black Sea. High A is slow moving.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Most recent available figure at noon local time

Algeria	27	81	Alma	22	72	Paris	25	75
Algeria	27	81	Alma	22	72	Paris	25	75
Algeria	27	81	Alma	22	72	Paris	25	75
Algeria	27	81	Alma	22	72	Paris	25	75
Algeria	27	81	Alma	22	72	Paris	25	75
Algeria	27	81	Alma	22	72	Paris	25	75
Algeria	27	81	Alma	22	72	Paris	25	75
Algeria	27	81	Alma	22	72	Paris	25	75
Algeria	27	81	Alma	22	72	Paris	25	75
Algeria	27	81	Alma	22	72	Paris	25	75



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كلنا من الأصل

A mother and daughter are cleared of a brutal killing - so who was responsible for the shooting at The Larches?

Innocent. But this murder tale is far from over

ON A cold December night three years ago, Richard Watson was shot dead outside his home - setting in train a sequence of events worthy of a crime novel.

The final chapter should have ended this week when his wife and stepdaughter were cleared of his murder, but instead this strange and intriguing tale of killing in a small Sussex town is far from over.

Some questions remain: who carried out what appeared to be a contract killing, and what will happen to Mr Watson's fortune, estimated to be more than £1m?

Next week, the police and the Crown Prosecution Service meet to pick up the pieces and decide what to do next. The detectives who have spent the past two years investigating the case are determined that it will not remain unsolved.

Having been formally found not guilty, Linda Watson, 44, and 23-year-old Amanda London-Williams cannot be charged again with the murder. If the evidence were available, they could in theory be charged with other related offences such as conspiracy to murder, although there is no suggestion that this will happen. Even if it did, defence lawyers could claim double jeopardy, arguing that to secure convictions the police had fallen back on another charge.

Mrs Watson has inherited around £800,000 from her husband's estate, including a share of the sale of the marital home - scene of the killing. The Larches in East Grinstead, West Sussex, was sold recently for £230,000. Detectives had hoped that a reward of £50,000 on offer for information would loosen a few tongues as to what exactly happened that night. But within 24 hours of her acquittal, Mrs Watson had withdrawn her £30,000 share of the reward. Her lawyers said she had no confidence in Sussex police's handling of the case.

Indeed, she and her daughter are said to be taking advice

BY KIM SENGUPTA

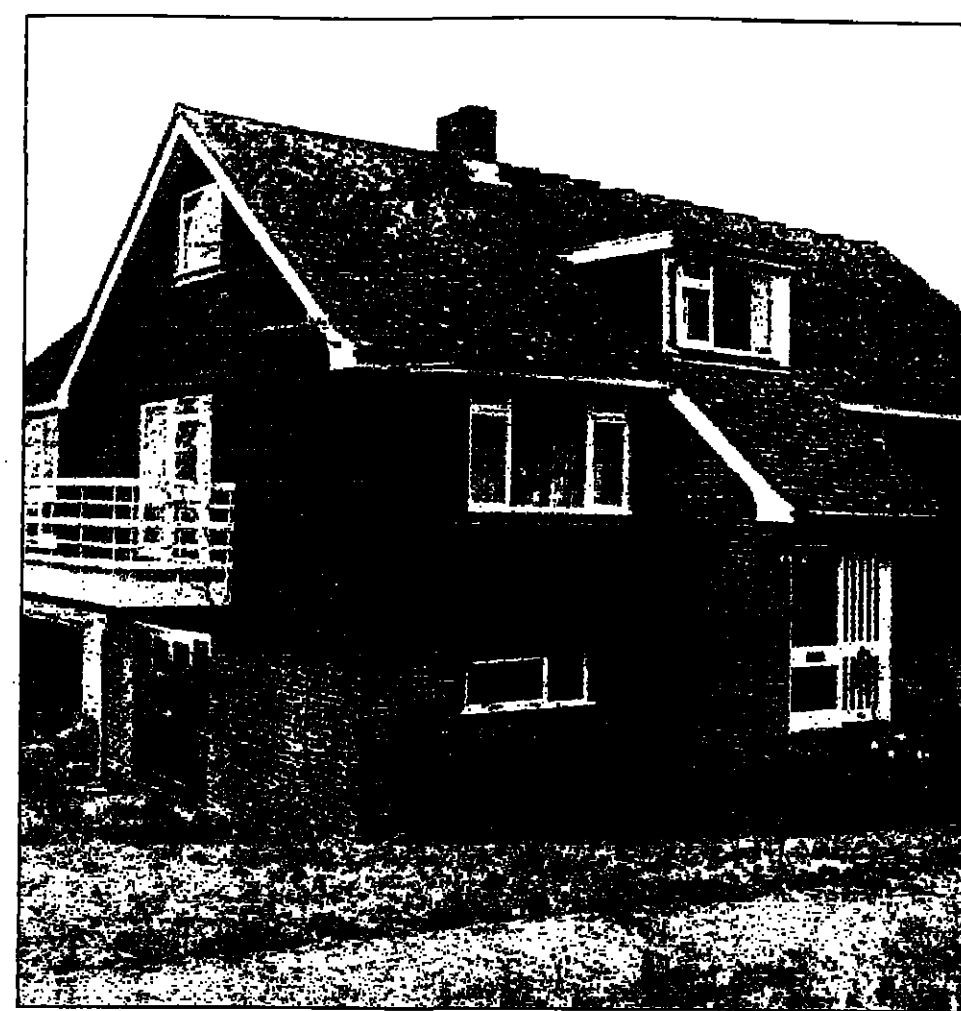
on whether to sue the police for wrongful arrest and/or malicious prosecution. Such a legal action may mean, of course, they will have to give evidence, an ordeal they were spared at the Old Bailey when the prosecution decided to drop charges before the trial began last Monday. Mrs Watson's lawyers say she has no fear of being cross-examined in the witness box.

The decision to withdraw the charges was taken because ballistic tests the previous Friday had undermined the Crown case that Mr Watson had been shot twice from the balcony of his home. The gunman's presence there would only have been possible with the collusion of the two women.

The events of the evening of 10 December 1996 are strange, violent and confused. Ms London-Williams had been staying with her mother and father, as she considered him. She was watching *EastEnders* on television when she heard her father drive back. Then she heard a loud bang, and her father saying something like "Get away from me - get away now again." As she opened the curtain she saw a figure in a balaclava standing with a long-barrelled smoking gun. Her mother also heard the noise, but thought it may have been caused by a pet kitten.

Ms London-Williams rushed downstairs and called 999. The time was around 7.40pm. She asked for an ambulance with words to the effect that there was "a man outside with a shotgun, he is going to get my daddy". When the emergency operator asked why there was the need for an ambulance, and had anyone been shot, the answer was "no". But she pointed out that Mr Watson had been attacked three weeks previously.

Linda Watson had by now picked up the phone, and the operator tried to keep her on the line. But she was insistent that the line must be cleared so



Linda Watson and her daughter Amanda (right), and with Richard Watson (above). Top: The Watsons' former home in East Grinstead where Mr Watson was murdered

she could call some friends. She also said she needed to call her husband on his mobile phone. However, she could not get the number.

The line was not immediately disconnected, and the emergency operator claims to have heard snatches of conversation with the words "Is that Daddy?" "yes". When Mrs Watson called the emergency services a little later she said that her husband "would be back any second". Defence lawyers argued that she was in shock and confused.

When all this was going on Mr Watson was, according to forensic scientists, already

dead. He had been fired at underneath the balcony with a shotgun. The first charge had come down through his chest. The second had blown away most of his neck. He was later discovered lying on his back, arms spread. His gloves were in one hand, and the car keys under his body. There was a small amount of blood.

At 8.08pm in another 999 call, Ms London-Williams gave a further account of the gunman she had seen. He had been standing with a smoking gun near Mr Watson's parked TVR Chimera car, about 18 feet away from where the body was found. The police version

put the range of the shooting at two to six feet. The forensic scientific conclusion was that from the trajectory of the injuries the shots must have been fired from the balcony, which is only accessible from the house. This evidence was to be discredited in tests a week ago.

Although Ms London-Williams only saw the gunman for between 10 to 15 seconds at a distance of more than 25 feet she was able, with lights around the house, to give a description including details of stitching on his jacket and his training shoes - old and turned up at the toes.

Three weeks before his death, Mr Watson had been at-

tacked with a stun-gun outside the offices of his computer company, Trafalgar, in East Grinstead. The two masked attackers zapped him with the stun-gun, but did not rob him. The police found it perplexing. East Grinstead had never had a stun-gun attack, and has not had one since.

There was speculation that the attack may have something to do with Mr Watson's business dealings in Russia, but the police could find no evidence of this. Instead, the feeling among detectives is that whoever later carried out the killing was laying a smokescreen.

The Watsons' marriage -

his third, her second - had gone through a rocky patch. She is said to have felt more like a housekeeper than a wife; the couple had not had sex for eight years. She was also said, in court, to be upset that Mr Watson wanted to hand over control of his computer company to his son, Julian.

On 5 March 1997, Mrs Watson and Ms London-Williams were arrested, questioned and released on police bail. A report was sent to the CPS, and after advice from a barrister, mother and daughter were jointly charged with murder in July.

The decision by the CPS to drop the charges has left some

detectives angry. The defence counter that the prosecution case was a loosely spun web of circumstantial evidence. Their lawyers say the confusion and apparent contradiction in the emergency calls was because the two women were in shock.

There is tension between Mrs Watson and some members of her husband's family. She did not inform them of the funeral arrangements and, when they found out the details, she had the body cremated an hour before the arranged time. She had wanted to avoid the funeral being turned into a media circus. In the meantime, the police investigation continues.

Cookson, the disdained bestseller, dies aged 91

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

SHE WAS the country's most popular novelist, and proof that poverty, lack of education and constant critical disdain need not be handicaps to those who aspire to a literary career.

Dame Catherine Cookson, who died yesterday a few days short of her 92nd birthday, left school at 13 and did not publish her first novel until she was 44. Her achievements were extraordinary and not just in book sales, although she sold nearly 100 million books and is far and away the most borrowed author in British libraries.

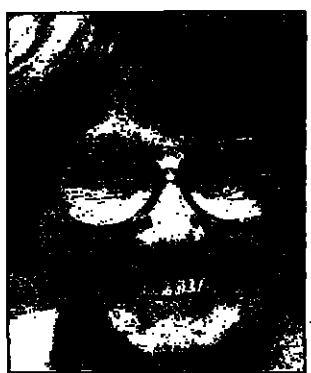
She was a generous philanthropist. She gave £50,000 to ex-servicemen who became ill after being involved with nuclear tests. She rescued Newcastle University's Hatton Gallery with a gift of £250,000.

But Dame Catherine's historical pageants of aristocrats and doughty heroines never really won over the London critics, for whom she had scant regard. Her works were seldom featured on the review pages, and never on the short or long lists for the Booker Prize. Two years ago, Leeds University advertised a course on the social, historical and literary aspects of her work, and only one person enrolled. The course was axed.

In recent years, however, critics had begun to re-evaluate her talent, with reviewers discerning a tough naturalism

Opening of 'The Bonny Dawn', her 1996 bestseller

The alarm went off in the middle of her dream. She was dreaming she was dancing, not the twist or jiving - these were beginning to be considered old-fashioned at the club - but something more old-fashioned still: she was gliding to music that seemed to come out of the clouds, for there was no orchestra that she could see and no roof to the ballroom. She knew there was a clear glass floor and she could see her legs reflected in it, but not those of her partner. She knew she was dancing with a man



and that she liked him, but when she looked at the floor she could see no partner. It was as a feeling of keen disappointment was penetrating her dream that the

alarm went off. It brought her spiralling up from the glass floor, through the roofless room and on to the bed, where she clutched wildly at the pillow. Pushing her hands underneath it, she swiftly switched off the muffled tinkling, then turned on her back and lay gasping, her eyes wide, staring upwards into the darkness while her ears strained towards the wall which divided her room from that of her parents. She listened; but when no sound could be heard through the wall, slowly, like a deflating tyre, she let herself sink back again into the hollow her body had made in the bed.

beneath the romantic prose. One critic noted: "Humour, toughness, resolution and generosity are Cookson virtues, in a world which she often depicts as cold and violent."

Her own life read like the pages of one of her novels. She had an impoverished childhood in the North-east, going to the pawn shop, fetching beer from the pub, collecting driftwood from the Tyne and picking up coke dropped from carts. But she was a prodigious worker and from the age of eight saved halfpennies, hoarding them in the outside lavatory where she did her daydreaming.

In 1948 she married Tom Cookson, an Oxford-educated

maths teacher, six years her junior. Although they were extremely happy, she was unable to have children, suffering four miscarriages in as many years. The problem was diagnosed as telangiectasia, a rare, hereditary blood disorder.

The miscarriages led to a long nervous breakdown in which Dame Catherine experienced suicidal impulses and feelings of wanting to steal or harm any child. But she found that writing about her early life proved therapeutic and she described how it became an irrepressible "mania".

The mania proved productive. Last year nine in ten of the most popular library books

borrowed in the UK were written by Dame Catherine.

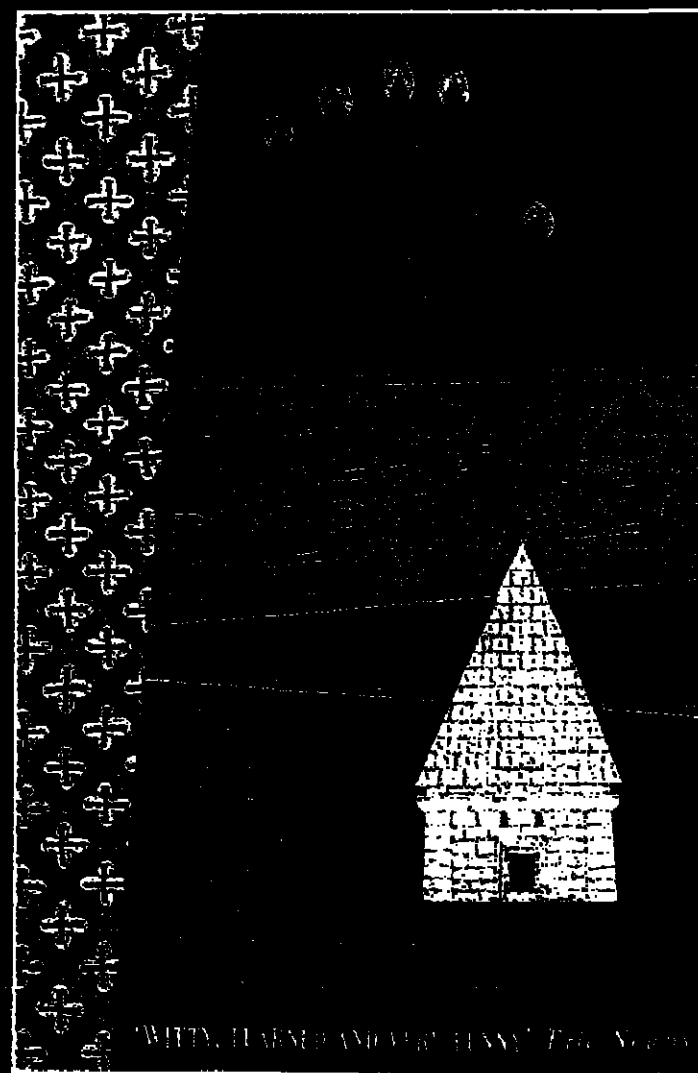
Her fellow novelist Lord Archer said: "They will read her in 100 years in the way they read Dickens, as a commentary of those times, and the stories will be just as good."

Barbara Taylor Bradford said: "I think she has drawn on every experience she has ever had and those of her friends to produce truly dramatic and moving books."

Paul Waggott, the leader of South Tyneside Council, said of Dame Catherine: "She never forgot her roots and this was the cornerstone of her literary success."

Obituary, Review, page 6

FROM THE MOST EXCITING TRAVEL WRITER OF HIS GENERATION



'Dalrymple's ear for conversation is as good as Alan Bennett's.'

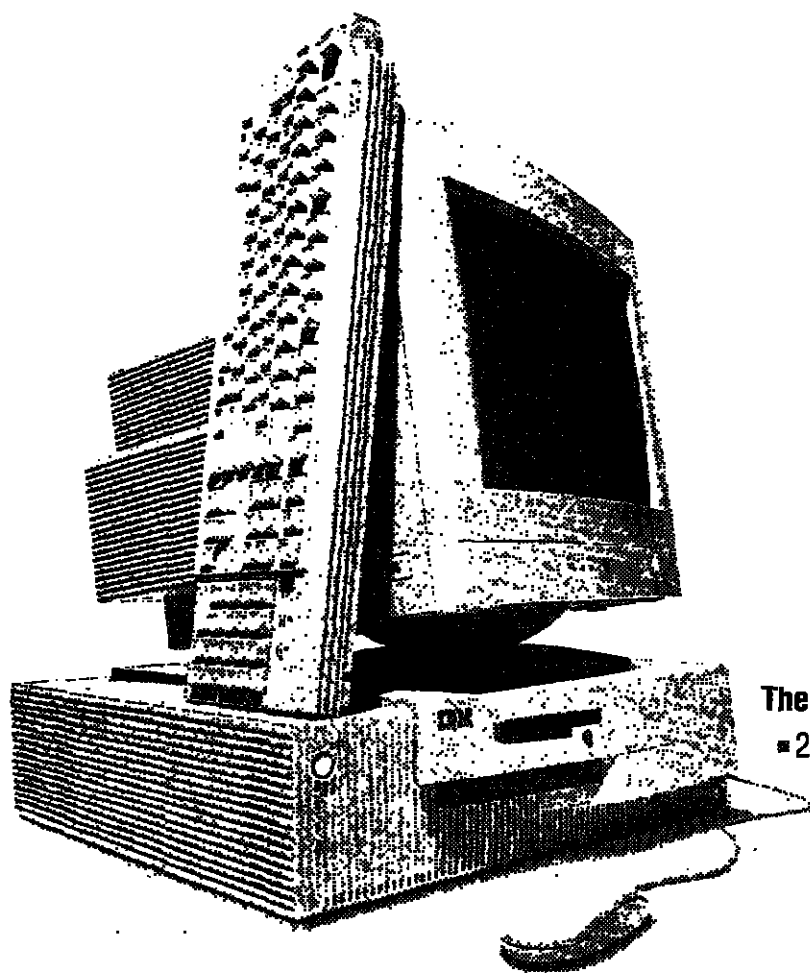
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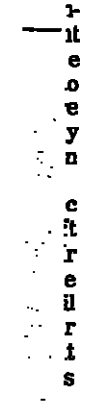


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Though the guide is designed to ensure that children make progress, its authors want to counter the schoolgate rat race in which parents compare how quickly their children are moving on to harder reading books.

Ms Hobbsbaum says: "The classic question from parents at the school gate is have you finished your book and have you got a new one? One of the hardest things is convincing parents that it is all right for a child to bring the same book home four days running.

"For instance, children often read the Spot books for the first time with a deadpan face because they are concentrating on decoding the text. It isn't until the second, third or fourth reading that they see the humour."

Some children, she points out, will be able to read more difficult books than those on the list by the time they are seven.

Book Bands for Guided Reading, from the Institute of Education bookshop, price £12. Text: 0171-612 6050.

In a report on work to the raise achievement of boys at All Saints School, York, yesterday, we reported that 60 per cent of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C last year. The actual figure was 68 per cent.

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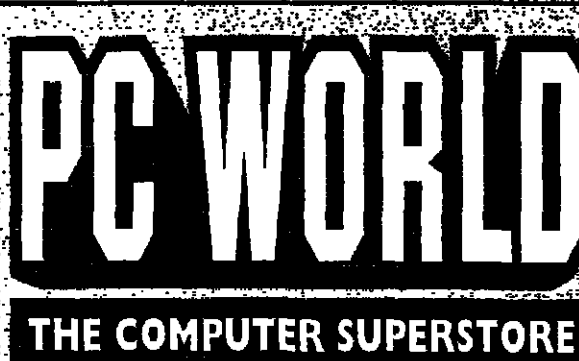
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Leading judge warns against legal aid cut

THE COUNTRY'S most senior judge last night warned that government plans to cut legal aid were full of "potentially fateful consequences" and implied that they could prevent some poor people from obtaining justice.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham questioned whether the move to end legal aid for most personal injury cases and replace it with "no win, no fee" agreements with lawyers had been properly thought through. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, is in favour of the no win, no fee deals as a means of cutting the legal aid budget.

Under the new scheme a solicitor would agree to take no fee if they lose in return for a higher fee if they win. But their clients have to take out legal insurance to cover the risk of hav-

BY JASON BENNETT
Crime Correspondent

ing to pay the other side's fees if they lose. Lord Bingham said he was "unsure" whether private insurance schemes would step into the gap and provide affordable cover.

He warned that the Government must ensure justice remained available to all. "One cannot read the well-argued responses to the Government's proposals... without appreciating the difficulties and the potentially fateful consequences of any radical change to the current arrangements."

Giving the Barnett Lecture at Tynes Hall in the East End of London, Lord Bingham said: "Those of us who have had no contact with insurance interests cannot be other than un-

sure whether insurance cover will be available in the much wider range of civil proceedings which are suggested as suitable for conditional fee agreements. "If such cover is not generally available at reasonable cost, then it seems unlikely that conditional fee agreements will fill the gap left by the withdrawal of legal aid."

Speaking on the centenary of the Poor Man's Lawyer scheme - a pioneering free legal advice service - Lord Bingham said that the Government's proposals had to maintain the principle that "the laws of our country exist for the benefit of the poor as well as the rich; that equality before the law is a pretence if some citizens can assert and protect their rights and others cannot; that the rule of law, to be meaningful, must ensure

that justice is available to all."

Lord Bingham said all sides in the debate accepted the need for reform of the legal aid system because it had become "huge and uncontrollably expensive". A budget of £682m in 1990-1 had more than doubled in six years to almost £1.5bn.

The cost of each action had risen by more than the rate of inflation and the number of people helped by the scheme had fallen.

Heather Hallett QC, chairman of the Bar Council, which represents barristers, said her organisation shared the Lord Chief Justice's concerns. "We hope the Government will listen to these concerns and proceed very carefully with change. We must not take a leap into the unknown leaving the less well off paying the price."



The badge of the Moscow Grenadiers (1664) from the arsenal of the Russian tsars is on show among the new Treasures of the Moscow Kremlin exhibition which opens at the Tower of London tomorrow. *Brian Harris*

Unions attack plan to count tips in wage calculation

A PROPOSAL that tips to waiters and waitresses and other low-paid workers should count towards the national minimum wage was yesterday attacked by left-wingers and unions but welcomed by employers.

The unpublished report of the Low Pay Commission, currently under consideration by ministers, argues that payments by results, commission, bonuses and gratuities which are paid through the payroll, should be included in calculations on a statutory pay floor. Donna Covey, of the GMB general union, said that a "clear and ambiguous" minimum wage should apply to everybody. "The tip is something the cus-

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

tomers leave occasionally in reward for exceptional service. It is not a subsidy for bad employers," she said.

It is understood that "cash-in-hand" tips would not be included, unless they go into a central pool which is then distributed in the form of wages. Representatives of companies in the service sector said that tips made up a high proportion of the earnings of some employees in the leisure and hospitality industry, particularly for staff in restaurants.

Brigid Stimmings, chief executive of Business in Sport and

Leisure, which represents some of the biggest companies in the sector, said that many employers paid their waiters and waitresses a lower hourly rate because of their ability to earn tips. "Back-of-house staff" such as chefs and kitchen staff received a higher basic rate to ensure parity of earnings.

The Labour left-winger Jeremy Corbyn, said it was "plain meanness" to include tips for low-paid workers in the calculation because they often relied on gratuities to supplement their incomes. He argued that it would also be "almost impossible" to keep track of the additional payments. And Bharti

Patel, director of the Low Pay Commission, said the proposal to include tips made a "mockery" of the minimum wage.

The report from the commission calls for an adult rate of £3.60 and a "development rate" of £3.20 for 18- to 20-year-olds. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, wants a lower minimum rate for young workers so that more employers will be encouraged to take them on as part of the flagship New Deal programme for the unemployed.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, yesterday urged the Government to implement the commission's recommendations in full.

Medical study of cannabis begins University fees don't deter young

A MAN who doesn't drink, smoke or take drugs yesterday won the first-ever licence from the Home Office to investigate the uses of cannabis as a medicine.

Dr Geoffrey Guy, founder of two pharmaceutical companies, predicted that pain-relieving drugs made from extracts of cannabis could start clinical trials within a year. "I'm interested in producing something helpful to certain people, such as multiple sclerosis (MS) sufferers, people with painful spinal injuries and pain from nerve diseases," he said yesterday.

His new company, GW Pharmaceuticals, will grow its own supply of cannabis plants under the Home Office licence. The site will be at a secret location in south-east England.

The staff will isolate chemicals such as tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) from the plants. But smoking will not be

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Science and Technology Correspondent

among the "delivery" methods for THC and any other useful chemicals.

"Smoking is not the right way to deliver medicines. It introduces carcinogenic particles," Dr Guy said. But because some of the chemicals remain inert until they undergo a particular chemical reaction - usually initiated by burning, which heats them above 1200°C - he is investigating the most effective techniques.

FEARS THAT university tuition fees would deter young people from entering higher education had proved groundless, the head of the admissions service said yesterday.

Latest figures from the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) show overall applications slightly down on this time last year, but slightly up among under-21s. Applications from mature students, however, were still well down on last year, despite Ministers' insistence that a late surge would fill the shortfall. Applications from the 21-24 age

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

group were down by 11.5 per cent on last year, and were 15 per cent down among over-25s.

The figures come just days after Education Secretary David Blunkett faced a Commons revolt over legislation to introduce the fees of up to £1,000 a year. Ministers insisted that students would view the fees as a good investment.

Tony Higgins, UCAS chief executive, said: "Initial fears that tuition fees would put off young people from applying for higher education have proved groundless. Our most up-to-date figures show that the number of UK under 21s applying is now up on last year." The overall shortfall has steadily declined since December because of a flow of late applications.

GAVIN ESLER

For many decent people, Martin Luther King's dream still does not exist.

THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5

Ministry ignored 'mad cow' warnings

A SENIOR scientist's warning in 1987 that "mad cow disease" could destroy the British meat industry went unheeded amid the politicisation and short-term attitudes then taking over the Civil Service.

Dr Alan Dickinson told the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Inquiry yesterday that millions of pounds were wasted and the disease was allowed to spread unchecked because officials at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Science and
Technology Editor

Food (MAFF) waited too long for evidence rather than consulting qualified scientists.

Dr Dickinson was at the time one of the few British experts in BSE-like diseases such as scrapie, which affects sheep, and was conducting research in the area when BSE was first identified late in 1986.

He told the inquiry that his

own view on the emergence of BSE - by mid-1987 there had been only about 100 confirmed cases - was that "if it was not under the control of the most experienced people in the world on this subject, it would quickly spin out of control". In August 1987 he told a colleague: "If this BSE issue is not handled properly it will destroy the meat industry."

Like a number of other scientists who have given evidence, Dr Dickinson was highly

critical of the radical changes to scientific funding which took place under the Thatcher administration. Research funding was cut, and short-term contracts replaced many jobs. Scientists were told they had to be "accountable" to sponsoring departments in government.

Dr Dickinson witnessed many of these changes, having been a founder director in 1981 of the Neuropathogenesis Unit (NPU) in Edinburgh. He resigned from it in 1987 because

of the "shambles" that had blighted investigation into diseases such as BSE. "The problem stemmed from aspects of the administrative culture dominating veterinary issues and from the progressive weakening of the autonomy of British science," he told the inquiry.

The NPU should have been the centre for research in BSE and related diseases in Britain, but in the 1980s it lacked sufficient funds to investigate properly. Instead, other laboratories received shorter

contracts. "There is wide agreement that very little of value has emerged from inexperienced labs given BSE funding," Dr Dickinson said.

Changes in the management of research meant short-term funding was given to long-term projects.

Dr Dickinson described a battle between research councils and government ministries over the reorganisation of scientific research in the 1980s,

while the NPU remained underfunded.

In a statement to the inquiry, he said: "At this time the feeling was widespread that the slow politicisation of research councils was leaving a smaller pot of research funds from which MAFF had first call."

The NPU has produced one key result on BSE and its human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD). A researcher there recently demonstrated that BSE and

"new variant" CJD, which has so far killed 25 Britons, are interlinked.

The £500m British beef export industry collapsed in 1996 when the European Commission imposed a worldwide ban, following the British government's announcement of a link between BSE and v-CJD. The crisis is estimated to have cost taxpayers nearly £4bn, and the commission has only this week recommended ending the ban. The inquiry continues.



VW ads firm stole my ideas, claims artist

GILLIAN WEARING, this year's Turner Prize winner for her *Sixty Minutes Silence* video of a group of police officers, has accused Volkswagen's advertising agency of plagiarising her work for its latest ad campaign.

She has consulted her lawyers and is planning legal action over the similarities between her work, *Signs That Say What You Want Them To Say*, and the current VW Golf adverts made by the advertising agency BMP DDB.

Both feature people holding paper signs that express how they really feel in contrast to their appearance.

Ms Wearing is particularly unhappy about the adverts which include a nightclub bouncer holding a sign that says "Sensitive" and its similarity to an image in her work of a policeman holding a sign saying "Help".

Her work also includes someone saying "I'd rather be in the countryside" and the advert has a man on a mountain who'd rather be in the city. Both also feature a surprising businessman.

VW's businessman's sign says "At weekends my name is Mandy". Wearing's work pic-

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

tures a businessman holding a sign saying "Desperate".

Ms Wearing's lawyers believe she has a case but BMP DDB claims while its creative team were "aware" of her work it took inspiration from a number of sources. Ironically, it claims to have been influenced by a Levi's campaign for its Dockers brand which Wearing also contacted her lawyer over.

BMP also says it was influenced by the video for Bob Dylan's "Subterranean Homesick Blues" in which the singer holds up cue cards as he sings.

The advertising agency has told Ms Wearing's solicitor that its solicitors had checked over the work before it was transmitted.

"What really hurts is that it stops me doing my work because people think I'm working for an advertising agency," Ms Wearing said yesterday. "After the Levi's adverts I went out on the streets again and people knew what to expect. If I describe my work to someone they say 'oh, like the advert'." She has been approached in the past by advertising agencies



Turner Prize winner Gillian Wearing claims advertisers are taking inspiration from her work behind her back

interested in using her work. She is not in principle opposed to the idea, she says, but has yet to find a product that she thinks is appropriate. Now she believes the opportunity to use "Signs" commercially has been taken from her.

"Everyone, or at least lots of people, know the Dylan video. A parody of that would be more in the order of homage. But if you are relatively unknown like

me it feels more like being exploited behind your back."

Ms Wearing completed "Signs" in 1992 and 1993 by photographing 600 people in the street. She approached them with a blank sheet and a marker pen and let them write whatever they felt. It was featured in the British Art Show and has also since been widely published in magazines and on the Internet.

Pensioner on life support after attack

A PENSIONER was on a life support machine last night after being savagely beaten by a gang of youths as he and his son tried to stop them vandalising a garden fence.

John Robinson was attacked on Wednesday as he returned from watching the Brazil-Scotland World Cup match with his son, Jonathan, at a social club in Birmingham. He had been celebrating his 68th birthday.

Father and son got into an argument with about seven teenagers who were kicking a fence about 100yds from their home in Yardley Wood.

Jonathan, 30, is believed to have chased several of the youths after one threw a brick at him. When he returned a fight broke out, during which his father was severely injured.

A shopkeeper - who was too frightened to be named - said he saw a number of youths lashing out with their fists. "I was looking out of the shop window and heard shouting from an alleyway nearby. Then I saw youths surround one of the two men and start jumping on him and punching him. They were like a pack of animals."

After the fight he ran across and found Mr Robinson lying in a pool of blood. "He was in a really bad state and was having bad trouble in breathing."

Another neighbour said: "I ran down with some blankets

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

and saw Mr Robinson lying there in a pool of blood. His son was kneeling at his side holding his father and crying. He was just too upset to talk."

Mr Robinson's family were at his bedside in hospital yesterday where he was described as critical with serious head injuries.

Detective Superintendent Bill Guest, of West Midlands Police, described the attack as "despicable", and said Mr Robinson was "public spirited and courageous".

As Mr Robinson lay bleeding on the floor a passer-by laid a T-shirt under his head for a pillow. Police are appealing for him to come forward.

Det Supt Guest said: "This is a tragic incident. What started off as a pleasant day out, a birthday celebration... turned into a man fighting for his life. This is a despicable incident."

One distraught neighbour said Mr Robinson, who lives with his wife Doreen and sons Jonathan and Simon, was a quiet family man who enjoyed walking and fishing at the weekend.

Neighbour Elsie Billings, 77, said the previously quiet neighbourhood had been plagued by a gang who abused people and vandalised property.

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Hospital leagues to force cost cuts

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

HIGH SPENDING National Health Service hospitals are to be required to cut their costs after figures revealed the expense of a hip replacement varied from £2,000 to £8,000.

Health minister Alan Milburn announced yesterday that all NHS trusts would be ranked according to the cost of treatments in a new set of league tables aimed at improving efficiency. Average costs would be established for each treatment and targets set for hospitals.

On Tuesday, Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, announced league tables of death rates aimed at improving the quality of NHS care. The moves are part of a drive to make the NHS more open and accountable and have been made necessary by the ending of competition between trusts which previously provided the lever to keep costs down and standards up.

The first cost league tables, to be published next August, will include all surgical and some medical treatments. Mr Milburn said hospitals would be "comparing not competing".

Examples of variations include the cost of a cataract operation, which averages £800 but can be over six times more expensive in some areas than others, and the cost of treating in-patients with chronic bronchitis, which ranges from £100 to £800 a day.

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Gordon Brown: the best chancellor the Tories never had

THE GHOSTS of Margaret Thatcher and Harold Macmillan haunted the House of Commons yesterday as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, made his public expenditure statement.

Wearing his usual granite countenance, Mr Brown hammered home his policy of fiscal rectitude and financial prudence before a confused opposition and a bemused phalanx of his backbenchers.

I have listened to Chancellors down the ages, during Budget speeches and public expenditure statements, and never understood anything they said except for one line. Today was no exception. Chancellors have their own lan-

guage and, not knowing how many beans make five, I need a translation afterwards.

The opposition did not know whether to cheer or jeer. As Air Traffic Control, the Royal Mint, the Commonwealth Development Corporation, the Tote, and everything else fell to the private sector in a single afternoon, many Tories were crying out "more, more".

Labour backbenchers cheered weakly but their stony faces showed weakly that Thatcherism has been given a new lease of life under Gordon Brown, the best Chancellor the Thatcher government never had.

"He's one of us," I can hear the former prime minister saying.

Public expenditure will be "prudent", "cautious", "efficient" and "stable", while everything that can be flogged will be sold to the private sector.

If Macmillan were still alive he would have dusted off his famous "selling the family silver" speech. Ken Livingstone and Dennis Skinner should get his words reprinted and sent to every Labour MP who still possesses a semblance of independent thought.

If a Tory Chancellor had made this statement in the 1980s, the Labour Party, from front bench to back bench, would have predicted the equivalent of a nuclear war, famine and riots in the streets.

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

Tories would have been throwing their order papers in the air with delight and an up-and-coming back-

bench Tory MP called Francis Maude would have asked a sycophantic, obsequious, well-rehearsed planted question offering his full support.

Mr Maude is now back in the Commons as the Shadow Chancellor and had to oppose the statement. Since he really agreed with it, this was a difficult task and he can be forgiven for not really putting much passion into his response.

Mr Maude has not yet quite come to terms with the change to the Commons since he was re-elected in 1997 after a five-year absence. He looks important and ministerial and indeed was a high-flyer under Thatcher and Major. If

he ever becomes a minister again, he will be outstanding. But like so many of the Tory front bench, he has not yet got the hang of opposition. Ann Widdecombe should give them all tutorials.

He had a weak joke: "Goodbye Iron Chancellor, may he rust in peace" and contradicted this with another: "It's easy to be an Iron Chancellor when putting your hands in other people's pockets." He is a serious player so he should stick to what he is good at: being serious.

Mr Brown got his own back by reminding Mr Maude he was the man who actually signed the Maastricht treaty.

Mr Brown warmed to his theme in a way I last heard at a meeting of the No Turning Back Group in the early 1980s. He had his usual list of grand phrases "break with old dogmas", "re-equip Britain", and "building in new disciplines", while his trusty friend "Prudence" made her appearance at least seven times in 10 minutes.

I have a feeling that when Mrs Thatcher reads this morning's papers, a secretary will be told to add Mr Brown's name to her Christmas card list.

Just don't spoil it, Gordon, by joining EMU, otherwise she'll treat you like Nigel Lawson and Geoffrey Howe if you mess up!

Tories condemn Britain's EU 'flop'

BRITAIN'S PRESIDENCY of the European Union was a "flop", the Shadow Foreign Secretary said last night. Michael Howard attacked the Government's presidency as "one of the most timid and poor in recent times".

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, defended the Government's performance in a debate on next week's European Summit in Cardiff, which marks the end of Britain's six-month tenure.

Michael Howard vigorously attacked the Government's handling of the presidency. "The European Parliament took a more favourable view of the last Conservative presidency than they did of the present Labour presidency," he told the House. He said European employment policies, which embraced the Social Chapter, were "job-destroying". "Has a single job been created as a result of action taken by the UK presidency?" he asked. Mr Howard criticised a lack of action over the Common Agricultural Policy, saying that forthcoming reform was "buried in the small print of the half-term report". Unemployment in Britain was 6.4 per cent, which was too high, but in Germany it was 11.4 per cent, in Belgium and France 11.9 per cent and in Spain 19.6 per cent.

The Foreign Secretary told the House he thought the presidency had been beneficial for Britain and Europe. "We will be among the first three countries in the EU to ratify the Amsterdam Treaty," he said. Its most successful element had been the launch of the enlargement process, which would extend the EU eastwards. "It is important to our interest that at the time of our presidency we proved advocates and friends of their membership," he told MPs.

He also trumpeted the leading role Britain had played in job-creation policies, Wednesday's partial lifting of the beef ban and the co-ordinated European attitude towards Kosovo. He said Britain's high standing in America was of direct benefit to the rest of Europe during the presidency, helping to avert a potential trade rift.

Mr Cook outlined the agenda

EUROPE

BY OLIVER CAVE

for next week's summit. He said it was to include:

■ The creation of a timetable for entry for the dozen former communist bloc countries into the EU;

■ Discussion of economic reform with the finance group;

■ The start of the overhaul of Brussels red tape, including reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, responsible for more than half of EU spending.

The summit would mark the success or failure of Britain's EU presidency, the Prime Minister's official spokesman said yesterday. "Cardiff is an important event for us. The presidency has been a great privilege and opportunity for this Government, coming so soon after its arrival in office."

"We wanted to signal throughout a new and positive approach which would be good for Britain and Europe. We believe in many ways that if the summit is a success then the presidency will have been a success," he said.

Donald Anderson, the Labour chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said he was impressed that the Foreign Secretary had achieved the unprecedented agreement on an EU code of conduct in respect of arms exports.

In the House of Lords the Foreign Office minister Baroness Symons was criticised for not appearing in a parallel debate. Lady Symons, currently on Foreign Office business in the US and Canada, came under fire from Tory foreign affairs spokesman Lord Moyihan for missing the final parliamentary debate on the European Communities (Amendment) Bill.

The Government was defeated in the Lords last month when peers amended the Bill, which enacts the EU's Amsterdam Treaty, to delay ratification pending "legal protection" for British fishermen against quota-hopping. But that amendment was overturned by the Commons on Tuesday - and peers last night accepted MPs' decision.

Donald Macintyre, Review, page 4



There are strong suspicions in Westminster that a formal pact could develop in the next parliament

Ashdown and Blair sign pact

TONY BLAIR and Paddy Ashdown yesterday signed a joint declaration at Downing Street committing the two leaders to an alliance on wide-ranging constitutional reforms.

The Liberal Democrat leader dismissed as "non-sense" suggestions that it amounted to a Lib-Lab coalition. But the joint declaration underlined the close relationship between the two leaders, in spite of their regular clashes at Prime Minister's Question Time over Liberal Democrat

CONSTITUTION

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

demands for higher public spending.

Robert MacLennan, who set up the liaison with Labour through Robin Cook, the strongest supporter of proportional representation (PR) in the Cabinet, said the statement was timed to show doubters that the two sides to the joint cabinet committee on constitutional reform had not run out of steam.

Mr Ashdown said that it was "almost unimaginable" to contemplate being offered a cabinet seat given Labour's overwhelming majority. But there are strong suspicions at Westminster that the development of a close working relationship through a cabinet committee could lead to a formal pact in the next parliament.

The joint declaration sets out a broad framework of action, including the work by the Jenkins commission for a reformed voting system for the Commons reflecting "broad proportionality".

Although the declaration does not commit either party to PR for the next election, Mr Ashdown made it clear that he wanted to "prod" the Government to accept PR, provided there was a "yes" vote in the referendum before the next election. The declaration offers a united front to the Tories on Mr Blair's plans for reform of the House of Lords in the next session of Parliament, the review of the voting system, freedom of information, and modernisation of the way Britain is governed.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Labour Party events in official residences

Ministers are allowed to host political events in their official residences, provided they or their party pays the bill, Tony Blair told Norman Baker, Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes. The arrangements are the same as under the previous regime, he added.

Regional sport centres of excellence

Tony Banks, Sports Minister, told Andrew Reed (Lab, Loughborough) that there are likely to be about eight regional centres for sport, and other centres planned for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. He told Richard Spring (Con, West Suffolk) that construction of the Headquarters is planned to begin in May 1999.

PARTY FUNDING

BY FRANK ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

THE TORY PARTY is so hard-up that it will never again be able to fight an election campaign like last year's, the party chairman said yesterday.

Lord Parkinson told the Neill inquiry into political funding that the shadow cabinet could not manage on the £1.1m state funding it received.

The situation was so dire that when the Ministry of Defence flew Sir George Young to Bosnia but told him to pay his own return fare, Conservative Central Office was not sure how to fund the trip, he said.

"We were very worried he might not be able to get back again," he joked.

Lord Parkinson confirmed that the Conservative Party had raised so much money in the run-up to the last election that it had been able to pay off a £19m overdraft and still spend £20m on its campaign.

There was a "huge blitz" of "one-off" donations from people who felt it sufficiently important that the party should survive.

"We had a record level of expenditure and our worst-ever result. It shows that if the tide is running against you, no matter how much money you spend, you don't stem it. Therefore, in future the Conservative Party will be very much more careful about how it uses its resources," he said.

An atmosphere of greater openness about political donations would curtail gifts in future, he added. One donor, who had given six-figure sums in the past, had given £4,500 this year after the party promised to disclose donations over £5,000.

While the Government could spend £2.6m on special advisers alone, the increasing demands on opposition parties meant the Conservatives' £1.1m "Short Money" was not enough, Lord Parkinson said.

Mr Hague's office was funded largely by the state handout, but occasionally received gifts for particular projects, he said.

Sir George, the former shadow Defence Secretary, who became shadow Leader of the House last week, said in written evidence that the Ministry of Defence had been "as helpful as could be" over his trip to Bosnia.

"But it could not fly me back, and that had to come from other funds," he wrote.

Field lays blame on Thatcher for DSS fraud

SOCIAL SECURITY benefits fraud, now put at £4bn a year, was given a damning boost by Thatcherism, Frank Field, the Social Security Minister, said yesterday.

Writing in the latest edition of *Tribune*, the left-wing weekly, Mr Field said: "The legacy of Thatcherism has been doubly damaging. Not only have working-class communities themselves been under attack as jobs have been lost and opportunities diminished, but the individualistic morality inherent in the Thatcherite ethos has also undermined the necessary disapproval of dishonest, community-wrecking behaviour such as benefit fraud."

Mr Field said that a "cultural shift" was needed to restore the sense that the money being defrauded from the system was not coming from some remote state machine, but was taken from the pockets and purses of everyone else through direct and indirect taxation.

Creating that change of attitude was "the key to a successful reduction in losses to fraud," Mr Field said, and that was a challenge for everyone, not just government.

But the minister, who has always been regarded with some suspicion by the Labour left, *Tribune's* traditional readership, also directly challenged the view that fraud crackdowns were directed at the most vulnerable people in society.

"Fraud undermines the notion of reciprocal duties which underpins the welfare state," Mr Field said. "It erodes the common decencies of honesty and thrift which are the cornerstones of a civilised society. That is why anyone on the political left should be concerned about it - as well as concerned

about the rights of genuine claimants.

"It used to be politically incorrect in the Labour Party to be against benefit fraud, though never, I am certain, among our supporters in the country as a whole. It is a sign that we have come of age as a party that tackling benefit fraud is now a mainstream concern."

The March White Paper on welfare reform, he said, produced a long-term, cost-effective campaign plan based on improved detection, more effective deterrence, and better prevention methods, to curb the £4bn fraud bill - "enough to give every family with children an extra £10 a week."

But, Mr Field told *Tribune*, while new fraud teams, new methods, new penalties and new benefits were vital to reduce the social injustice of benefit fraud, there were limits to what government could do. "The most effective deterrent to benefit fraud is peer and community pressure," he said. That was not stated in the White Paper section on "more effective deterrence" of fraud.

He also said yesterday that while some benefit fraud was big business, with recent cases showing two families defrauding the system of £2.3m, cumulative losses were greater from small-scale benefit fraud.

The low-level fiddlers were mostly committed "by people who work while on benefit or cohabit while claiming as a single parent," Mr Field said. The message had to be clear: "Money taken by the dishonest is money lost by the honest."

THE HOUSE



Ministers back Jackson for NEC

MO MOWLAM and David Blunkett have nominated Helen Jackson, the Northern Ireland Secretary's parliamentary private secretary, for the elections to Labour's national executive committee.

Ms Jackson, the Labour MP for Sheffield Hillsborough, is understood to have received around 70 nominations, including the Secretary of State for Education's. She runs against the whips' "slate" of three candidates, and her supporters said Cabinet ministers refused to be limited to the semi-official slate. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is backing Dennis Skinner in the elections.

'Race bias' rebuke for Fabricant

THE BEST way to get people from ethnic minorities into jobs is to teach them the importance of work, a Tory MP told the House of Commons. Michael Fabricant, member for Lichfield, asked the employment minister Alan Howarth: "May I ask you to confirm that the way to improve job opportunities for black people and other ethnic minorities is by inducing on them the work ethic and also by improving their job and training opportunities - and not by introducing a quota system for employers?"

The question drew gasps from Labour MPs and a rebuke from Mr Howarth, a former Conservative. "We on this side of the House find racial discrimination abhorrent," he said.

Parliament visits to cost tourists

TOURISTS COULD be charged £9.50 a head for touring the Houses of Parliament during the summer months, when the building is closed to the public, Ann Taylor, the Leader of the House told MPs last night.

She confirmed a charge was being considered but she said there was no question of charging constituents for meeting their MPs in the House of Commons.

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Murder inquiry: Teenager's parent says it is like a knife in his stomach to know culprits are still walking free

Father attacks detectives in Lawrence case

THE DEPTH of anger and frustration felt by Stephen Lawrence's parents about the police investigation into their son's murder was laid bare when they testified to the public inquiry yesterday.

During a dramatic and highly charged day of evidence, Neville Lawrence said it was like "a knife in my stomach" to know that the youths who stabbed his son in an unprovoked racist attack remained free. He said that, five years later, he was still waiting for an apology from the Metropolitan Police.

There was uproar in the public gallery when his wife, Doreen, interrupted questions put to her by the barrister representing Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, asking: "Am I on trial here or something?"

After an intervention from Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, chairman of the inquiry, he and other lawyers agreed not to submit the couple to further cross-examination.

Mr Lawrence, 51, testifying in person for the first time, launched a bitter attack on detectives who investigated the murder in Eltham, south-east London. "We have to live with the mistakes that they have made," he said. "It has cost us so much pain to know that these people could be behind bars doing time for the murder of my son."

"I heard one officer here say that if they had arrested these people the following day, they would have solved the case. This has put a knife in my stomach, to know that we are here five years later, still talking about the death of my son, and no one has paid for it."

Five white youths - Neil Accurt, Jamie Acourt, Luke Knight, Gary Dobson and David Norris - were prosecuted for Stephen's murder, but never convicted. They are due to give evidence at the inquiry next week, depending on the outcome of a legal challenge to be heard at the High Court today.

Mr Lawrence, whose evidence, like that of his wife, was punctuated by applause from spectators, said he had been waiting for an apology since the inquiry began 43 days ago.

"We have suffered all of this trauma, and at the end of the

BY KATHY MARKS

day we have had nothing," he said. "We won't get our son back, but I think that the Metropolitan Police have a duty to apologise for something that has caused pain and suffering."

Mr Lawrence, who broke down in tears while his wife was being questioned, managed to maintain his composure in the witness box.

"I am a plasterer and decorator," he said. "When I go to someone's house to do some plastering, if at the end of the day I haven't done that work, I don't get paid."

"These people were given a job to do, and they didn't do it, but they still collect their pay. I just feel let down."

Mrs Lawrence, 45, said she was sceptical about the sincerity of detectives who have expressed regrets about errors in the murder inquiry. "Police have had to give explanations here about what went on," she said. "Are they genuinely sorry? They're sorry that they got caught out, but not about the mistakes that they made."

Mrs Lawrence became increasingly angry during questioning by Jeremy Gompertz, QC, counsel for the commissioner. When he persisted in asking her about disputed areas of evidence, she snapped.

"Can I ask a question here?" she asked. "Am I on trial or something? From the time of my son's murder, I have not been treated as a victim." To cries of "shame!" from the public gallery, she added: "For me to be questioned in this way, I do not appreciate it."

Earlier, statements by Mr and Mrs Lawrence about the private prosecution that they brought against the five suspects were read out to the inquiry. Mr Lawrence said in his statement that at the committal proceedings he heard the first detailed account of how his son was killed.

"The part that got to me was the way that Stephen shouted out," he said. "I could just feel a pain. I felt the pain myself and I could not stand it. I collapsed."

He said he was devastated when the crown court trial was abandoned. "I just sat there

and froze," he said. "I would describe that day as one of the worst of my life, when I saw those guys get up and walk out. There was no doubt in my mind that it was these people, and I still do not doubt it."

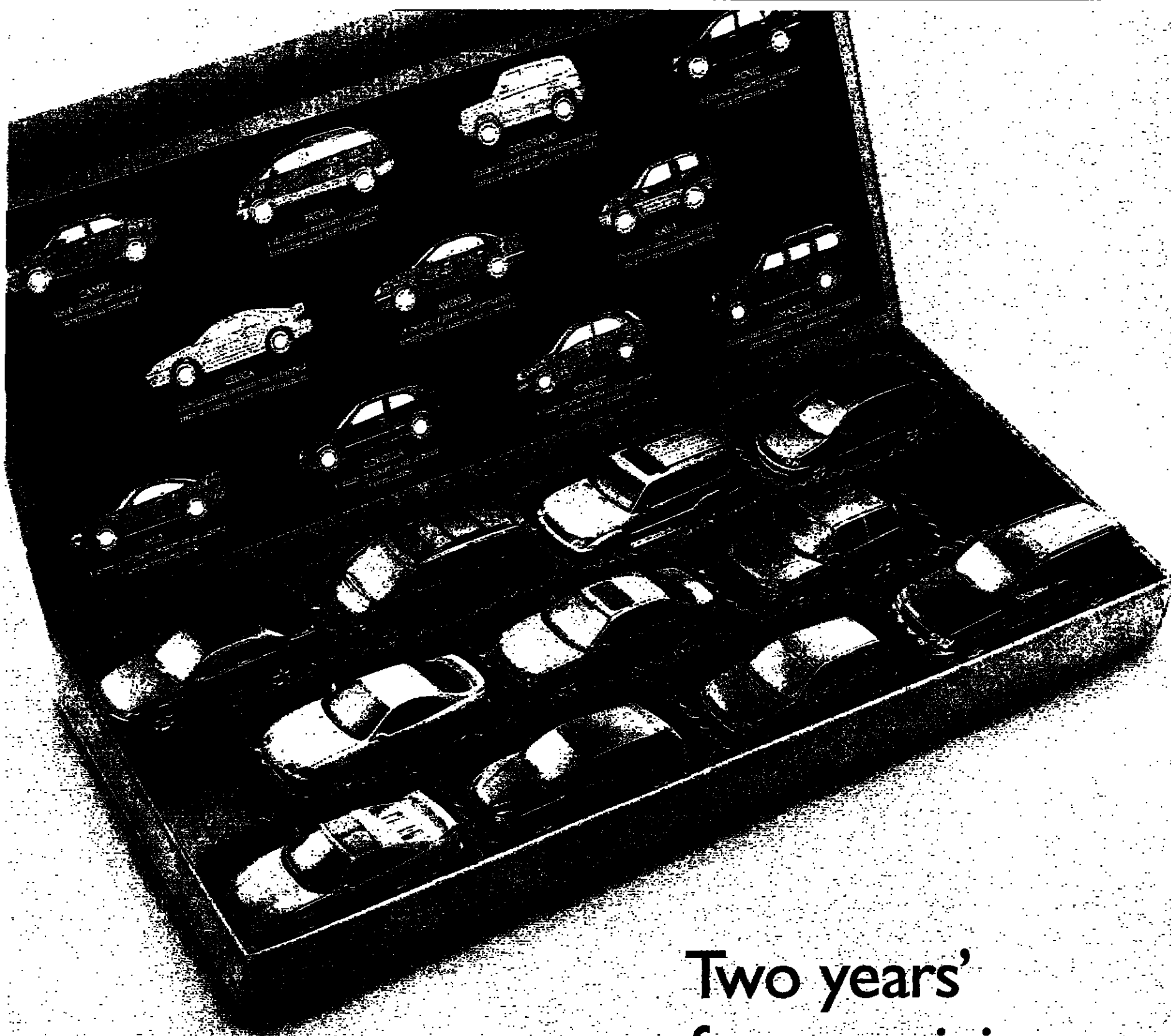
Mrs Lawrence said that, at the committal, the boys "never once looked worried". "They had a sort of 'come and get me if you dare' attitude," she said. "On one occasion, two of them were seen to make cut-throat gestures while looking in our direction."

The inquiry continues.



Stephen and Doreen Lawrence yesterday during a break in the inquiry into the murder of their son, right

Chris Woods



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Smith seeks spin guru to fight criticism

A NEW SPIN doctor is to take over at the strongly criticised Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Yesterday, two leading arts figures rushed to the defence of Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, following damning criticisms by a Commons select committee.

The film producer Lord Putnam and theatre director Sir Peter Hall praised Mr Smith and accused the veteran Labour MP Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the Culture Select Committee, of leading a witch-hunt.

Mr Smith is attempting to improve his image by appointing a new director of strategy. Paul Bolt, 44, head of the department's broadcasting policy division, will head a new directorate of strategy and communications.

Mr Bolt spent 17 years at the Home Office before joining the department. Mr Smith's current head of information, Andrew Marre, is leaving. His new role has not been announced.

The Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee accused Mr Smith of spending too much time on "glamorous and trivial matters" such as Britpop and not enough generating income from tourism. The report also said he was not tough enough in negotiations with

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

the Treasury, and his department had still not "boxed its weight".

The cross-party committee of MPs decided the department's "Beefsteaks to Britpop" image and said Mr Smith must make it his "highest priority" to start advancing its interests in the Cabinet.

Yesterday, Sir Peter Hall, who has attacked Mr Smith in the past for failing to win enough cash for the arts, said the report was an example of "tabloid hysteria - a sort of McCardism".

Lord Putnam said the committee had been given a chance to give a considered view and offer sensible advice. He went on: "That opportunity has been blown because the entire report seems to have been played to the worst end of the press, to attract headlines."

He added: "We have got a very engaged minister. He is scrapping in all the areas that are crucial to us and this type of report does not help. It actually damages us."

Mr Kaufman is away and was not available for comment. His committee's criticisms of senior management at the Royal Opera House last year triggered the resignations of the chairman and chief executive.

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Angler Anne Milne fishing the Wye between the border towns of Monmouth and Chepstow

John Voos

River Wye rescue plan offers old fish for new

IT CERTAINLY sounds like a fisherman's tale - put the live salmon you have caught back in our river, and we will give you a smoked one.

But a group of anglers and conservationists trying to halt the disastrous decline of salmon stocks on the River Wye, which flows from Wales into the Bristol Channel, are deadly serious. The Wye Foundation is offering a 2lb side of smoked, farmed salmon - equivalent to a 6-8lb fish - to every fisherman who returns a rod-caught wild fish back to the water alive.

The scheme has only been running for three weeks but already 12 Welsh anglers have taken advantage of the smoked-for-life bargain, and Stephen Marsh-Smith, the Wye Foundation chairman, hopes that this year as many as 300 fish may be returned to the river this way.

It is essential, he says, because the Wye's famed salmon run is in crisis. After an average annual catch in recent decades of about 3,500 fish, peaking at nearly 7,000 in 1988, last year fewer than 650 fish were caught in the river, the lowest annual total ever recorded. There are now not enough fish spawning to keep up the stock.

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

"The number of fish now running the Wye is no longer great enough to guarantee a future," said Dr Marsh-Smith, a Bristol dentist who lives on the river downstream from Bulth Wells in Powys. "Last year we achieved only 22 per cent of our 'spawning target' - the number of fish you need to keep a river full. It was the lowest total of any major British salmon river."

The Wye has been hit by a combination of problems in its own catchment area and the mysterious decline of salmon returning from the sea, which is occurring all over the North Atlantic and which some scientists think may be linked to global warming.

"There are some things you can influence and some things you can't," Dr Marsh-Smith said. "One of the things you can make a difference with is the number of fish that actually go and spawn in the river's tributaries. Exploitation and losses at sea are beyond our control, but this is something we can do for ourselves."

There is no tradition in salmon

fishing, he admitted, of "catch-and-release", and the foundation is asking anglers to change their thinking.

The Wye itself has had "every environmental problem you can think of", he said, in particular a large number of cases of sheep-dip poisoning and damage to the banks of the tributary streams in which salmon spawn by the very intensive sheep grazing of the surrounding hills. One river in particular, the Marig, had been "sheeped out", he said, and last year for the first time not a single trout was taken from it.

The Wye Foundation has just received a grant of £1.1m, half from the European Union and half from British conservation agencies, for a five-year habitat restoration programme.

The smoked salmon, Dr Marsh-Smith said, was not to make good for fishermen's losses. "It's to say thank you for being aware of how desperate we need these fish in the river to spawn."

The smoked salmon is being provided at cost price by an Aber-rt gwynny game dealer, but the bill still to £10 a time, which is being met by a local tackle dealer, the Environment Agency and the Wye Foundation.

Billie-Jo defence tests 'not realistic'

BY LOUISE JURY

AN EXPERIMENT designed to show that Billie-Jo Jenkins's foster father could have been accidentally sprayed by her blood as he tended her dying was "quite unrealistic", a pathologist said yesterday.

Lawyers acting for Sion Jenkins, 40, who is accused of Billie-Jo's murder, are to argue that a blood bubble exhaled by the battered teenager could account for microscopic blood stains found on his clothing.

But Dr Ian Hill told Lewes Crown Court, Sussex, that the amount of air used in the defence team's simulation was much greater than for a normal adult breathing. It would certainly have exceeded the breathing capacity of the teenager who was fatally wounded and may even have died instantaneously.

Asked whether Billie-Jo could have forcibly expelled and sprayed blood from her nose, Dr Hill said: "In my opinion, it is so remote a possibility it can be discounted."

He said bubbles of blood in the nose did not indicate the girl was making an effort to breathe and he suggested that a bubble bursting would spray down the face.

Billie-Jo was found bludgeoned to death on the patio of her foster family's home in Hastings, East Sussex, in February last year.

Her foster father, Sion Jenkins, a deputy headmaster, is accused of her murder based on around 150 microscopic specks of blood, like aerosol spray, found on his fleece jacket after the attack. He denies the charge. He claimed yesterday that he believed Billie-Jo was still alive and breathing when he found her body.

Dr Ian Hill told the court yesterday that 13-year-old Billie-Jo died after multiple blows were

rained down upon her head. One could have been caused by a punch but most were consistent with being struck with a 18-inch metal tent peg found at the scene.

Bruises to her arm and hands suggested she may have raised them to fend off her attacker. And over extended lungs may mean she was gasping for breath during the last moments of her life.

However, Dr Hill said, the injuries which caused extensive damage to her skull and brain, could have killed her instantaneously.

He said: "Someone who was so badly injured would not be able to make vigorous breathing movements during the period of dying."

Dr Hill, who has an OBE and has been a pathologist for more than 20 years, said the cause of death was the head injuries.

Anthony Scrivener QC, defending, said the neurosurgeons who were experts in brain injuries knew of many people who lived despite them. But Dr Hill said that in his experience as a pathologist, "a significant number" of people with injuries to the head died "very, very quickly indeed".

The defence experiment commented upon by Dr Hill involved the expulsion of 2.5 litres of air in two seconds through one nostril, according to details provided by the prosecution yesterday.

Dr Hill said this compared with the normal adult breathing rate of 6 to 10 litres in a whole minute.

Billie-Jo's natural father, Bill Jenkins, sat with his head in his hands as the jury was shown graphic photographs of his daughter's injuries.

The trial continues today.



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London Underground: Ailing lines carry an extra 100,000 passengers and rake in £265m, but face further delays

Failing Tube system posts record profit

LONDON UNDERGROUND yesterday announced record "profits" of £265m last year while failing to meet nearly all government-agreed performance targets.

In the 12 months up to March, 100,000 extra passengers used the Tube - growth fuelled by the booming London economy - but the ailing system proved incapable of dealing with the record numbers. One of the biggest problems is the time spent queuing for tickets, according to London Transport's 1997-98 annual report.

In order to alleviate the strain, the system will get more money. Executives outlined plans for a £1bn cash injection over the next two years to improve the network, which carries nearly two million passengers a day.

Key routes such as the Northern line will get new trains, a dozen central London stations will see their lifts and escalators upgraded and 22 stations will receive face-lifts. Also planned to get off the

BY RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

ground in the next two years is the Prestige project. This will see LU selling a smartcard that passengers can charge up with cash and use on every form of transport - including black cabs, trams and overground train services. The contract to design the system is to be awarded this month.

However, commuter journeys are likely to get worse before they get better. "There will be some disruption while work is being done," said Dennis Tunnicliffe, the new chief executive of London Transport.

Some experts, however, said the money was merely a "sticking plaster to keep the Tube from falling apart".

"I do not think the £1bn spread over the period is going to have any qualitative effect," said Maurice Fitzpatrick, a partner with the accountants Chantrey Vellaclough.

Mr Fitzpatrick pointed out the only new money was £365m

found by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott - well short of the £1.5bn he says is needed to transform the system.

Mr Prescott has said he will modernise the Tube by leasing the trains, track and stations to the private sector. LU, which remains in public hands, will then pay the private companies - who will use the money to upgrade the system. Mr Prescott says this will generate £7bn over 15 years.

The proposed "public-private" partnership has angered the Rail Maritime and Transport (RMT) union whose Tube members are striking for 48 hours from Sunday evening - virtually closing down the system. The RMT says pay and conditions will "be squeezed" to make money for private firms.

LU says contracts are likely to be signed in April 2000, just before a mayor of London would be in place. Mr Tunnicliffe said the Government would make it "impossible" for a left-wing or Tory mayor to stop Mr Prescott's plans.



Commuter Denise Thompson at Stratford Tube station in east London

Andrew Buhrman

TIMETABLE OF MISERY

- Denise Thompson arrives at Buckhurst Hill Tube station at start of six-stop 'hop' on Central line to Stratford for her Docklands Light Railway connection.
- Her train leaves Buckhurst Hill after 10-minute delay caused by suspect package at Notting Hill Gate.
- News filters through of 'defective' train at Leyton station which can't move forward or backwards. Denise begins long wait on train stuck between South Woodford and Snarebrook.
- London Underground suspends service between Leytonstone and Liverpool Street. Knock-on effect wreaks havoc on whole of Central line.
- Another train begins to shunt rogue train on its slow crawl towards Mile End. Denise's train arrives at Leytonstone where she leaves train to call into work.
- Service between Leytonstone and Liverpool Street restored after defective train is finally removed from system. Denise's train leaves Leytonstone.
- Denise finally arrives at Stratford more than two hours after leaving Buckhurst Hill.
- Denise arrives at Canary Wharf.

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One breakdown - and agony for thousands

WHILE MANAGERS at London Underground promised yesterday to pour hundreds of millions of pounds into the cash-strapped Tube network, thousands of London's commuters faced another morning of misery.

Passengers were stranded for up to two hours in stuffy carriages on the Central line, which runs from Epping in Essex to the western edges of the capital, after a train broke down at Leyton, east London.

Nor was this an isolated incident. Two weeks ago, thousands of Tube commuters were stuck in tunnels on the Central line for nearly an hour following a breakdown of the ageing system. The effect of a seemingly simple incident was to lengthen some passengers' journeys by 200 per cent.

Denise Thompson, a secretary who works in Docklands, began her journey at Buckhurst Hill, Essex. It usually takes her 45 minutes to get to the office but yesterday it took her three times as long. "I

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS
AND RANDEEP RAMESH

started my journey at 8.35 but didn't get to work until 11. It was an absolute nightmare," she said.

Mrs Thompson was not the only one of the Central Line's half million daily users who were affected by the chaos.

Robert Georgiou, who works for a firm of stockbrokers, travels to work from Newbury Park in east London. Stuck just behind the defective train that was being "pushed" down the track, his journey, which normally takes 45 minutes, took him nearly two and a half hours.

He said: "It got pretty heated. At one point a man said to a woman: 'Can you please stop talking because your voice is drilling into my head.'"

Despite an £800m refurbishment programme, including new signalling, the Central line has been plagued with problems. It has fallen victim to the needs of much higher-profile schemes,

such as the £3bn Jubilee line extension, which have soaked up much of the engineering expertise on the network.

The promised £1bn cash boost to the Tube will be welcomed by many passengers. Government figures show that more than 100 trains are delayed every day on the network.

Business was counting the cost of yesterday's disruption. A spokesman for the London Chamber of Commerce said: "When thousands of commuters are stuck... and many of them are high earners going in to the City, I think we are talking in terms of hundreds of thousands of pounds. It amounts to a lot of unproductive time, lost business, general disruption and stress."

A spokesman for the London Underground said yesterday that passengers caught by delays could claim compensation under the Passengers' Charter.

Commuters face more misery next week, when a two-day strike by Tube workers will shut down the network.

SUZANNE MOORE

'Coming out isn't what it used to be. The general reaction to these announcements of MPs' gayness appears to be one of utter indifference'

THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3

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Kosovo's agony: Minister's lecture on violence draws contempt from the men behind the province's bloodshed

Serbs smile as Britain wags its finger

By ROBERT FISK
in Pristina

ON THE side of a long white house peppered with bullet holes are the spray-painted words: "KLA-Kosovo Republic - Rugova."

Did the Albanians really write this on the wall before the Serb offensive? Or did the victorious Serbs, languishing now beside their armoured vehicles amid the wreckage of Pristina, scrawl the initials of the Kosovo Liberation Army onto their handiwork, together with the name of Ibrahim Rugova, the leader of the Democratic League of Kosovo, who had opened negotiations with Slobodan Milosevic until the latest battle brought their talks to an inevitable end.

In the bright sunlight, crushed glass winked cynically at us from the road; telegraph poles lay splintered in the ditches. There were more rafters, twisted, skeletal, from the broken houses.

Pristina was the same old story. Or that, at least, is what Bosko Djokovic, the local Serb information ministry implied when he lectured us, down the road in Pec, on the iniquities of the Albanians.

If only the Albanians would talk to the Serbs, he lamented - just as the world wanted them to do. "We have always been in favour of an open and unconditional dialogue with the legitimate representatives of the Albanians," he said.

"Our position is that dialogue is not only the best but the only solution to the problems here... unfortunately, the dialogue failed only because of the Albanian side - because while we were inviting them for a dialogue, Mr Rugova and other Albanians were travelling all over the world looking for support for an independent Kosovo and filling their people with illusions."

It was a tale we were to hear again and again. The first Rugova-Milosevic talks - broken off when the Serbs smashed their way through the villages



Freshly dug graves of two Albanian men burnt alive near the village of Dolovo, graphic evidence of the recent violence in Kosovo

Mark Seager

around Decani - had "created realistic assumptions for a dialogue" but the "terrorists" (the KLA and anyone else who fought back at the Serbs) did their best to end the talks.

Even in the precincts of the 14th-century Orthodox monastery of Decani, built by King Stefan (not the church at Gracanica as *The Independent* stated in its report yesterday) the same motif could be discovered. Only dialogue would solve the problems of Kosovo.

So fast forward, now, to the

provincial capital of Pristina, where yesterday morning a black Range-Rover with a minuscule British ambassadorial flag, sweeps meaningfully into town.

From it steps Tony Lloyd, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in the government of Her Britannic Majesty, to knock some heads together.

To representatives of Mr Rugova's Democratic League of Kosovo, he announces that "all options are open" for the international community, that vi-

olence must end, that the militarisation of Kosovo must be stopped.

Then the Range-Rover glides down the street for a meeting with Velko Odalovic, the highest local authority official in Pristina - appointed by Belgrade, of course - whose private sanctum, adorned with oil paintings of 19th-century Yugoslav cottages, was made available to Mr Lloyd.

The building itself contained the usual central committee splendours; a set of dirty cur-

tains partly torn from their rail, a ranky carpet, massive plastic ivy bushes and cracked marble columns.

"My father worked here as a council official," a young Albanian girl whispered softly beside me. "Until the Serbs fired all the Albanians nine years ago. Now he stays at home and rests."

Mr Lloyd spent all of 15 minutes with his Serbian host and then emerged to greet the Serb television cameras. "I told him I thought he would be much big-

ger," one of Mr Odalovic's female assistants muttered. Ah, indeed. Mr Lloyd is a friendly but rather short Mancunian.

Mr Odalovic, like most Serbs, appeared to be 8ft tall and climbing. He looked down upon the little Englishman with a broad smile.

"The message to all sides is a very simple one," Mr Lloyd piped up. "There is no military solution to the problems of Kosovo - the future is meaningful negotiation - and meaningful negotiation within the

Yugoslav federation. That's a very clear message by the international community."

Back in Pec, on the other side of those crumpled Albanian villages, Mr Djokovic must have been rubbing his hands in glee. Was this not exactly what he had just been telling us?

The world, Mr Lloyd went on insisting quaintly, "won't see a lurch into violence that has been unacceptable" - an oddly ungrammatical phrase that hinted at the recent Serb vi-

olence but might just have been referring to the Bosnian war. There then stepped forward a female Serb reporter of immense height who asked Mr Lloyd for his views on "Albanian terrorism".

One could pity the poor minister. "We are against violence by any side," he murmured, all too aware of the traps of this particular question.

He had previously condemned violence by the KLA, but the questions kept coming: terrorism, terrorism, terrorism. Mr Lloyd looked irritated. So tell me, I asked him by way of distraction, were the Serbs and Albanians shaking in their shoes at his message? "This is desperately serious," he replied bravely. "All sides should understand that."

And Mr Lloyd made his excuses, because he had to depart for the airport. "He's going to a place beginning with 'M', I think," a BBC technical muttered plaintively.

Yes, he was en route to Montenegro to lecture President Milo Djukanovic, though he might just as well have gone to Macedonia. The Balkans are used to messages, especially those brought by small men in Range-Rovers.

So after Her Britannic Majesty's minister had left Pristina, I called by to see Mr Odalovic in his office, where the rustic cottages in the three oil paintings looked all too similar to those we had seen - without roofs, of course - a few hours earlier.

"These visitors we have are very conscious of their responsibility," he said. "They know what they are talking about. Sometimes they tell us things we don't like - but we remain polite to them and smile. Then sometimes they come back and tell us things which are good for us - and we like to hear this. So of course, people like Mr Lloyd are always welcome."

And Mr Odalovic smiled a very broad smile indeed. But he didn't seem to me to be shaking in his shoes.



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هاتوا من الأصل

Murder unites Russia in anger

MORE THAN 1,000 people turned up for her burial. Crowds protested on the streets of her home town, angrily brandishing copies of her newspaper. Boris Yeltsin publicly expressed his condolences; parliament observed a moment's silence.

With its ceaseless killings and endemic corruption, Russia is not easily outraged, but the murder of Larisa Yudina, a provincial newspaper editor, is proving an exception.

There is disgust at the crime itself and alarm about what it reveals about fragility of press freedom in the provinces of the new, criminalised Russia. Last year, 19 journalists were killed here, although there was no war, no plague, no natural disaster.

This year, six more lives were taken, while 33 journalists have been beaten up. Seven years after the end of the Soviet Union, asking questions in the wrong places can be lethal. Especially if you start probing dark crevices in which crime, business and politics unite.

In this case, the "wrong place" appears to have been the local government in the republic in which 55-year-old Mrs Yudina worked.

According to Russia's interior minister, Sergei Stepashin, she was the victim of a contract killing which was "undoubtedly" politically motivated, a remark which leaves little doubt that the federal government suspects the republic's authorities. Several Moscow

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

Ilyumzhinov, 35, an autocrat whose aptitude for business made him a millionaire while he was in his twenties. So effective were the paper's attacks that the authorities several times closed down its offices in the republic's capital, Elista.

In much of provincial Russia, old Soviet habits of snooping and censorship continue. So, at times, does the use of brute force. On one occasion, members of Mrs Yudina's staff were beaten up by guards working for a bank linked to the presidential administration.

Though he is subordinate to Moscow, Mr Ilyumzhinov enjoys great autonomy, and has a reputation for flamboyance and ruthlessness among the 320,000 people who live in his (largely Buddhist) republic.

Interviewed earlier this year by *The Independent*, he boasted of his visits to Baghdad to see Saddam Hussein. He made international headlines by trying to recruit Diego Maradona to the local football team, and by starting work on a "Chess City" in Elista.

But he also has a record of riding rough-shod over the principles of democracy. He was elected in 1993 after distributing \$100 bills to voters; once in power, he paid the legislature to dissolve itself, and closed opposition newspapers.

At the time of her murder, Mrs Yudina was reportedly investigating allegations of impropriety by a company, said to be linked to the president's administration, which registered off-shore ventures exploiting the tax-free regime that Mr Ilyumzhinov has established. The administration has indignantly denied that her killing has anything to do with politics or politicians.

Mrs Yudina was also active in Russia's only genuinely liberal party, Yabloko, which has taken up her cause. "In democratic Russia, politics are conducted with methods more murderous than in the totalitarian Soviet Union," said Vyatcheslav Igrunov, deputy chairman of the party's central council.

The investigation has been taken over by federal prosecutors in Moscow. Investigators say they have arrested two suspects, but it is hard to be optimistic that they will get to the bottom of the crime.

Just over three years ago, Vladislav Listyev, a popular television journalist, was gunned down. Prosecutors have made little progress in finding his killers. Nor have they moved with any alacrity over the case of Dmitri Khodolov, a newspaper reporter whose investigations into corruption within the upper echelons of the military came to an abrupt halt when he was blown up by a briefcase bomb.



Vladislav Listyev: a TV star shot three years ago

papers share that view. "A totalitarian regime deprives people of their rights, and renders law useless," said *Izvestia*, in a front-page editorial.

Whoever smashed Larisa Yudina's skull and knifed her 14 times, dumping her body in a pond, can scarcely have expected the scale of the reaction. She worked in Kalmykia, on the Caspian Sea, hundreds of miles from those in Moscow now lamenting her fate.

The newspaper she edited, *Sovetskaya Kalmykia Segodnya* was the only local paper which dared to oppose the republic's president, Kirsan



Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, the autocratic president of Kalmykia, where journalist Larisa Yudina, 55, was killed. Reuters

Indonesian riots blamed on military

INDONESIA'S NEW President, BJ Habibie, yesterday ordered the armed forces to investigate claims that riots which killed almost 1,300 people last month in the country were organised.

President Habibie, who has promised sweeping democratic reforms since he succeeded former president Suharto, said: "I ask the armed forces to disclose the truth about rumours that at several locations, riots and looting was organised by certain groups who incited many people to burn and loot."

Mr Habibie did not say who might have been responsible, but - significantly - he added that the armed forces needed to take action against any of its members who had fallen short of the military's usual "high standards".

Indonesia's National Human Rights Commission has said it has received accounts from witnesses that say that organised groups - believed to be linked to pro-Suharto elements in the army - whipped up much of the violence.

At the same time, other rights groups in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, have started to document what they say was a campaign of assaults, gang rapes and killings directed against members of Indonesia's prominent but unpopular eth-

BY MARCUS TANNER

nic Chinese community. A report in the *New York Times* cited a worker at a women's aid centre in Jakarta saying she believed hundreds of women were still being treated at hospitals for wounds inflicted during the disturbances, which culminated in the overthrow of President Suharto.

The newspaper said aid workers feared that most of the women were too traumatised and too frightened of reprisals to report their experience to officials, and that some had even committed suicide.

Because of the organised nature of the attacks, the newspaper said, aid workers suspect the hand of the armed forces.

Eighteen police officers are facing charges in the shooting deaths of four student protesters on 21 May.

The leader of Indonesia's largest Muslim opposition bloc, Amien Rais, said he also believed certain groups were specifically encouraged to riot during May's political turmoil.

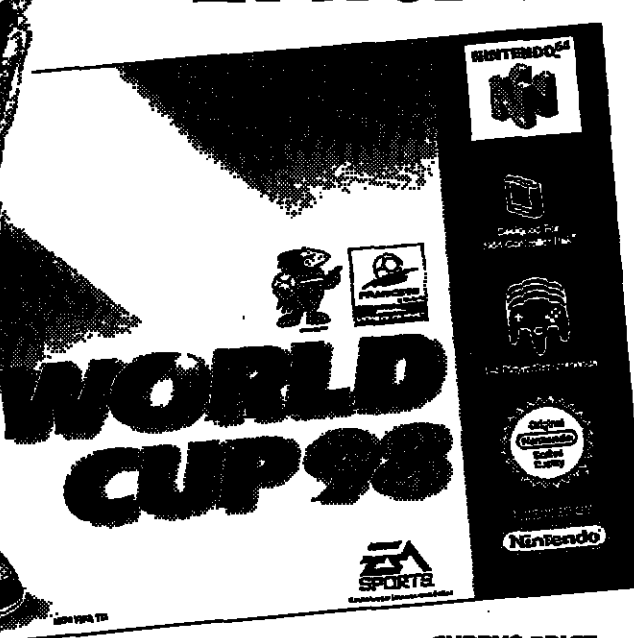
Indonesia's Chinese community has traditionally dominated the country's commerce and industry and has been made the scapegoat on several occasions for ordinary people's economic hardship.

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Where journalists are dying in the field

LAST YEAR, 26 journalists were killed worldwide in the course of their work, just two fewer than in 1996.

In 1996, the figure was twice that, and in 1994 four times. According to *Index on Censorship*, the London-based magazine launched by poet Stephen Spender, the reason for the drop was the end of the conflicts in Yugoslavia and Chechnya, rather than a breakthrough in press freedom (Kosovo has yet to claim any journalists' lives).

One of the worst areas in the world is Asia. Last year, 12 journalists died while working in Asia: seven in India, two in Cambodia and one each in Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines. But South America has a bad record, too. Last

BY JANINE GIBSON
Media Correspondent

year, four journalists were killed in Colombia, three in Mexico, one in Argentina, one in Brazil and one in Guatemala.

Two journalists were killed in Africa last year, but more than 60 have fled Sierra Leone to escape the military junta. In Rwanda, the editor of a local paper was shot, but in South Africa and Burundi, which previously had no private press, journalists are well received.

Around 90 journalists are imprisoned around the world. The number of those assaulted, arrested, detained and fined, or who have had publications banned have remained fairly constant in recent years.

DONALD MACINTYRE

'Tony Blair shows no sign of cutting back on his vision of Britain's European destiny, the Euro included'

THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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Pakistan halts all nuclear testing

PAKISTAN yesterday announced a "unilateral moratorium" on its nuclear testing programme, as a new coalition of established nuclear powers and countries which have renounced atomic weapons prepared to throw its weight into efforts to stop an arms race on the Subcontinent.

In Islamabad, the government proclaimed itself ready to reach a no-testing agreement with India, as what it called an "important regional confidence-building measure". Urging India to reciprocate, the Foreign Ministry declared Pakistan's readiness to "formalise this arrangement" if Delhi was willing.

On paper, therefore, given India's readiness to open talks on a moratorium, the pieces are in place for at least a temporary halt to testing – the first demand of the Big Five nuclear powers

By RUPERT CORNWELL

who have led international outrage at the combined total of 11 explosions (five by India followed by six by Pakistan) conducted over the last month.

Such though is the mutual suspicion between the two rivals, however, that nothing is guaranteed. Meanwhile, in an unusual and ground-breaking development, foreign ministers of the G8 major industrial powers will join in London today with their counterparts from Brazil, Argentina, South Africa and the Ukraine, and the ambassadors of China and the Philippines, to urge Delhi and Islamabad to give up their nuclear programmes.

No one is talking of a G-14 to add to the existing thicket of international bodies, not least because other countries like Australia may join later. But the

gathering deliberately unites three categories of power: the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, or "P-5", the major non-nuclear industrial states of Japan, Italy, Canada and Japan, and a select group of countries which either had weapons and got rid of them (Ukraine and South Africa) or, like Brazil and Argentina, planned to build them but thought better of it.

The Philippines is represented as current chairman of the Asean regional forum, especially alarmed at the nuclear proliferation taking place on its doorstep.

No one is expecting miracles: "This sort of persuasion and advocacy will take some time," a British official said. Nor will there be any offer to mediate in the sharpest quarrel between India and Pakistan, the dispute over Kashmir.

The focus therefore will be on the nuclear aspect of the South Asian crisis. Yesterday's offer by Islamabad could hasten a halt to further tests. But the London meeting will also demand pledges not to "weaponise" the two countries' existing nuclear stockpiles, nor deploy such weapons, to adhere to a treaty banning further production of fissile material, and then to sign up to the comprehensive test ban and non-proliferation treaties.

This last is the cornerstone of international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. India justifies its nuclear aspirations by claiming the five recognised powers use the NPT as a means of maintaining their monopoly of such weapons. Hence the enlistment of "renounced" powers to their cause, in the hope that a good example will be catching.



Children playing on a seaside walkway swamped by cyclone-driven waves in Bombay. More than 550 people died as 65mph winds tore in from the Arabian Sea to devastate India's western coast this week, as the monsoon season began in earnest. Most of the fatalities were in Gujarat state, to the north of the regional capital. AFP

Icy threat hangs over India's pen-pushers

By PETER POPHAM
in Delhi

ONE OF Britain's more enduring gifts to India is the begrudging and procrastinating posture of civil servants. Their adage is: "If it is easy make it hard, if it is hard make it impossible, if it is impossible, so much the better."

But three bureaucrats in the defence ministry are about to pay for their adherence to this motto with a trip to the highest and most godforsaken battlefield in the world.

India has been fighting a small, absurd, and apparently endless war with Pakistan on the Siachen Glacier in the high Himalayas in the far north of Kashmir for the past 14 years.

It is by far the toughest battlefield in the world, with temperatures averaging -40C and blizzards raging at 160km per hour. The highest post on the glacier – the Bana post – is at an altitude of 18,000ft.

In addition to the usual battlefield hazards of getting shot or blown up, frostbite and altitude sickness are also common. Then there is the risk of falling down a crevasse in the soft, hip-deep snow – a problem intensified by the fact that the only way soldiers can get from A to B is on foot.

The reason for this is that bureaucrats spent 18 months sitting on a request from the glacier troops for 10 snowmobiles, before recommending that a special committee be set up to look into it.

When the defence minister, George Fernandes, a colourful maverick, visited the Siachen front line in April, officers evidently bent his ear about the snowmobile problem, and when he came back he was fuming about civil servants' "callousness of the highest order".

His remedy: a standing order for annual procurement of 10 snowmobiles, and sending the three officials responsible "to undergo at least a week's



Fernandes: bureaucracy buster Sunil Malhotra

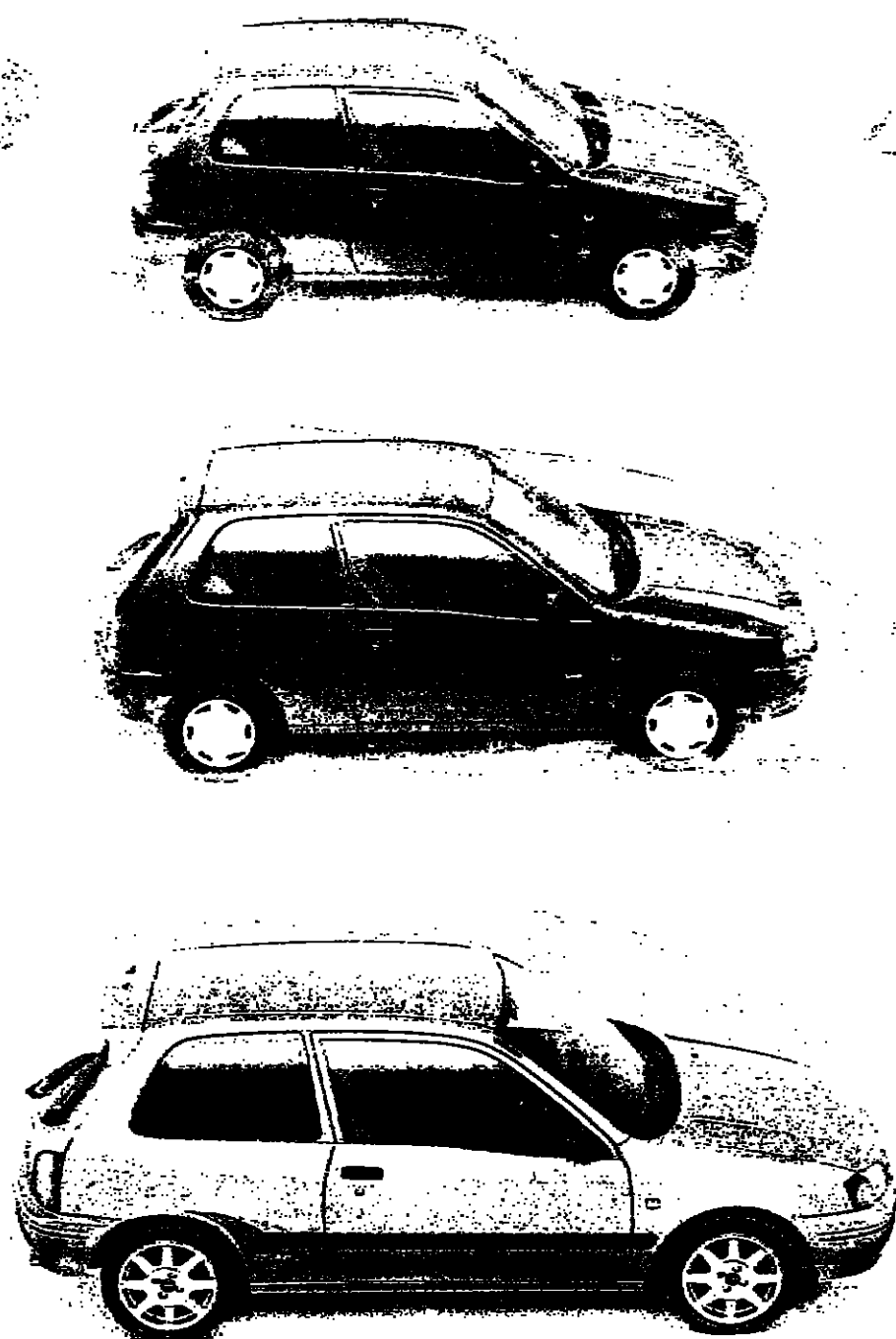
familiarisation with the conditions on the glacier".

Sensing, perhaps, the popularity of this initiative with voters, he subsequently expanded it to embrace all defence ministry officials whose decisions affect soldiers on India's numerous nightmarish front lines.

"Civilian officials," he told reporters, "must go to the Rann of Kutch [a vast expanse of tidal mudflats on the Pakistan border] during the monsoon, to the Rajasthan desert during the height of summer, to Jammu and Kashmir, Siachen, Chushul and the jungles of the North-east, where our soldiers are fighting, to see for themselves what their working conditions are."

Fernandes's crowd-pleasing rhetoric will surely make him the most unpopular minister in Delhi with his officials, although it should not be beyond them to throw up some bureaucratic obstacle that will keep them at their comfortable desks.

What would be even more worthwhile than an endless supply of snowmobiles, however, would be creative thinking about ways to end the war. On Siachen, more than 400 soldiers have been killed since 1984, and over 9,000 injured.



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هكذا من الأصل

At last, someone benefits from the bright lights

IT IS two months since I first reported on Arthur Bell. He is the 71-year-old black gentleman who was scooped from the street one late-winter night, frostbitten and unable to walk, and delivered by ambulance to a Brooklyn hospital. There he was befriended by a social worker, Maria Mackin, who took seriously ramblings from the old man about a life as a ballet dancer that doctors had attributed to dementia.

What Ms Mackin discovered, she first shared with the New York Times newspaper; its report then spurred others, like myself, to spread the story wider. Mr Bell, it turned out, had indeed danced with Margot Fonteyn and worked with Sir Frederick Ashton, just as he had been claiming. Indeed, Ms Mackin identified him as a pioneer - the first black dancer with the New York City Ballet.

AMERICAN TIMES

NEW YORK

What has happened in the meantime? A good deal. For once, this is a case of a private person enveloped by the bright lights and intrusions of the media and benefiting from the experience. He now enjoys a celebrity far greater than any he earned when he was dancing. He has held a news conference and been on breakfast television. Requests for the movie and book rights to his story are still flooding in.

And he has a new home. Hearing of his plight and of his love for the performing arts, the Actor's Fund Nursing and Retirement Home in Englewood, New Jersey, quickly made contact and offered him permanent residency.

"I feel they are my people," he recently said of his

new-found companions. "Performers are just the interesting people, anywhere you go".

Most importantly, he has been rediscovered by siblings who had thought him lost for good. After spotting news stories about him, five sisters from Florida - where Mr Bell grew up - and a brother, Dale, who lives in the New York suburb of New Rochelle, who had not seen him for 40 years, recently converged on the city for a reunion dinner. The evening was sponsored by ABC TV, which will broadcast the occasion on its 20/20 magazine show later this month.

Guiding Mr Bell through all the sudden changes is Marc Glick, a New York lawyer who is representing him pro bono. Papers have

been drawn up to make brother Dale Arthur's guardian. Money that has been streaming in from well-wishers is being directed into a fund for his well-being. In time, says Mr Glick, a scholarship will be set up in Mr Bell's name for young people seeking a career in dance.

As for the movie and book rights, no decision will be made until after the airing of 20/20, says Mr Glick. Those who have expressed interest so far include the Walt Disney Company, the actor Morgan Freeman and a British documentary company, October Films.

The Independent newspaper had another reason to revisit Mr Bell's story. Lying beside me now is a letter addressed to him by a reader from Devon, who was evidently moved by our first report in April. Stapled neatly to the bottom is a \$50 bill, which I will be sending to Mr

Glick, and through him, to the fund.

I am hopeful that the letter itself will get to Mr Bell. I think he will be moved. It begins with two lines from Arthur Rimbaud: "I have stretched ropes from belfry to belfry; garlands from window to window; golden chains from star to star; and I am dancing." It is from *Les Illuminations* XII.

AND NOW, briefly, to another artist, but one who has never known life beyond the camera lens. I speak of Prince Charles. It seems that His Royal Highness is to contribute one of his lithographs to an auction next week at the New York Academy of Art. But what, exactly, will be the subject of his work? Or, more to the point, will it depict a person in a state of undress? It is a question that is sparking much breathless chatter in Manhattan,

because the name given to the auction is "Take Home a Nude". Asked for any clues, Joe Heissan, the director of development at the academy, replied only: "I have no idea."

A new, and somewhat unusual exhibit, was meanwhile delivered this week to New York's Museum of Natural History all the way from New Zealand. Or rather, from the ocean floor just off New Zealand. It is a giant squid, one of our planet's most elusive creatures. As I write, the squid is being thawed from its deep-frozen state on arrival, after which it will be pickled for display in the museum's new Bio-Diversity wing.

Giant squids, with 10 tentacles and eyes as large as dinner plates, can reach 60 feet in length. This is only a baby, coming in at about 25 feet. "It's gorgeous," says curator Dr Neil Landman. No doubt.

DAVID USBORNE



Bell holding a ballet pose in his Brooklyn room AP

Clinton defends visit to Peking

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton moved to combat mounting criticism of his visit to China later this month with a no-holds-barred defence of his policy towards the country, from trade through arms control to human rights.

In a speech to United States sinologists at the National Geographic building in Washington yesterday, Mr Clinton said he was making the first presidential visit to China for a decade "because I think it's the right thing to do for our country". He will be in China and Hong Kong from 25 June to 3 July.

The President went out of his way to justify his decision to attend an official welcoming ceremony on Tiananmen Square in Peking, just over nine years after China caused international outrage by sending in troops to crush the pro-democracy protest there.

Answering critics who say that his very presence in Tiananmen Square will signal to China that the killings of 1989 have been forgiven and forgotten, Mr Clinton said: "Protocol should not be confused with principle... If there is a choice between making a symbolic point and making a difference, I choose the difference."

Mr Clinton has faced pressure from exiled Chinese dissidents and US human rights campaigners to cancel the welcoming ceremony, if not the trip, and send a wreath instead in memory of those who died.

Participation in an official welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People, which

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

is on the edge of the square, is protocol for all official visitors to China and is believed to have been a condition set by the Chinese for Mr Clinton's visit.

Addressing another issue of acute sensitivity in Washington, Mr Clinton also defended his authorisation of US sales to China of satellite technology and the use of Chinese launch sites for American satellites. US satellites were in great demand internationally, he said, and the US had far too little launch-capacity for all of them. But he insisted that US security interests were fully protected at Chinese sites. Mr Clinton did not, however, respond to claims that at least one US company was exempted from usual security requirements because it was headed by a big donor to the US Democratic Party.

Mr Clinton's China policy has been a focus of criticism from political opponents ever since he reversed the hard line of his first presidential campaign to embrace the policy of "constructive engagement" pursued by his predecessor, George Bush.

Opposition escalated in advance of the visit to Washington last year of the Chinese leader, Jiang Zemin, and flared up again first when Mr Clinton brought forward the date of his trip - apparently at China's urging - from the end of this year to June, and in recent weeks as the visit has approached. Congressional committees



President Clinton speaking yesterday. Human rights groups are fiercely opposed to his Peking trip AP

have recently heard wrenching accounts of the mistreatment of prisoners in Chinese jails and forced abortions resulting from China's family-planning policies. The licensing of satellite exports has come in for close scrutiny. The lack of religious and intellectual freedom, oppression in Tibet and relations with Taiwan are all advanced by Mr Clinton's critics as reasons why he should not go to China.

Taking on his critics, Mr Clinton argued that his policy of combining engagement with forthright expression of differences was preferable to isolating China. "Choosing isolation over engagement would not make the world safer," he said. "It would make it more dangerous. It would undermine rather than strengthen our efforts to foster stability in Asia. It would eliminate, not facilitate co-op-

eration on issues relating to weapons of mass destruction." To isolate China, he went on, "would hinder, not help, the cause of democracy and human rights in China. It would set back, not step up, worldwide efforts to protect the environment. It would cut off, not open, one of the world's most important markets."

Mr Clinton cited Chinese co-operation with Western pow-

ers after the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, its role in mediation with North Korea and its stand against "competitive currency devaluation" following the economic crises elsewhere in Asia, to argue that China was increasingly open to the outside world and that its responsible use of that openness was in the US interest.

Leading article, Review, page 3

America wants death penalty for race killers

PRESSURE IS building for the death penalty to be applied to the three men charged with killing a black man in Texas by dragging him behind their pick-up truck. The ugliness of the crime and its racist nature has outraged the country.

James Byrd was beaten senseless, chained to the bumper and dragged for two miles down a street in Jasper, Texas.

Shawn Berry, 23, Lawrence Brewer, 31, and John King, 23, each face a state murder charge, which carries the maximum penalty of life in prison. In Texas, the death penalty can only be applied if murder is combined with another crime. Huge pressures were building up on the state authorities yesterday to charge the three with capital murder for a crime condemned by President Bill Clinton as "an act of evil".

Guy James Gray, Jasper county district attorney, said he thought a kidnapping charge might be brought. Janet Reno, the Attorney General, said that federal authorities were also investigating. A federal

BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

case might allow the death penalty to be applied.

The Rev Jesse Jackson, who met Mr Byrd's family after the murder, argued against the death penalty. "The fullest extent of the law must be enforced," he said. "Some people think that means capital punishment, some think it means life without parole. I happen to think the latter."

The black mayor of Jasper said the town should not be labelled racist. "We are very hurt by this crime, both sides, black and white," said Mayor RC Horn.

King's father apologised to Byrd's family. "It hurts me deeply to know that a boy I raised... could find it in himself to take a life," he said in a handwritten note. "The deed cannot be undone but I hope we can all find it in our hearts to go forward in peace and with love for all."

Comment, Review, page 5
Klan's new generation, Review, page 9

New bird found in Ecuador jungle

ROBERT RIDGELY was hiking down an Ecuadorian mountain path last November when he and a fellow ornithologist heard a strange call akin to an owl's hoot and a dog's bark. "He and I recognised right off the bat that this was something very peculiar," recalled Mr Ridgely, director of the Center for Neotropical Ornithology at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

What Mr Ridgely, 52, and the Ecuadorian expert, Lelis Navarrete, heard and eventually saw high in the Andes mountains, was a new bird species.

BY DINAH WISENBERG in Philadelphia

Once he saw the large bird with the unusual white facial markings, he knew that it was "one of the most distinctive new birds to be found in a while".

The academy was to formally announce the discovery yesterday, and soon will submit a description of the bird to a leading ornithological journal. The *Auk*. The scientists will also name the bird. They have determined it is a species of the genus *Antipitta*, a group of very elusive, long-legged, non-migratory birds.

Taiwan fears betrayal by Washington

IN WASHINGTON and Peking officials are burning the midnight oil putting the finishing touches to preparations for President Bill Clinton's historic visit to China later this month. In Taipei, officials are equally busy calling everyone they know in the United States Congress, in the administration and anywhere else they can think of in an attempt to ensure that their oldest and least reliable ally does not sacrifice Taiwan's interests for the sake of improved Sino-American relations.

"We don't have formal diplomatic ties," said Chen Chien-jen, the chief government spokesman in Taiwan, "but everyone knows we have very good levels of communication with the United States administration. How good? 'Very good,'" replied Mr Chen.

Based on these good relations, Taiwan's leaders are officially maintaining a cool, almost optimistic stance on the visit. Talking to a group of foreign correspondents in Taipei,

BY STEPHEN VINES in Taipei

the Prime Minister, Vincent Siew, said: "The US side has assured us that the visit will not in any way sacrifice our interests." He even thinks it possible that President Clinton might help in facilitating a resumption of the stalled talks on the reunification of China and Taiwan.

Behind this optimism lies the knowledge that every time a US president has visited China, Taiwan's interests have suffered. The biggest setback was former President Richard Nixon's groundbreaking visit to Peking which led to the severing of diplomatic relations in 1979.

Since then the US, which promised to stand by Taiwan, has imposed arms supply embargoes, voted to exclude Taiwan from international organisations and broken off public dialogue with the island's leaders.

Yet, as John Chang, secretary general of the ruling Kuomintang party, insists, the US re-

mains Taiwan's best friend. "In substance, practically all things have changed (since 1979) but in reality almost nothing has changed," he said.

But even he admits Taiwan is "very much concerned about President Clinton's visit". China has a shopping list of things it would like in relation to Taiwan, which it regards as a renegade province.

First, it would like the US to reaffirm its commitment to the "one China policy", which would mean keeping Taiwan in diplomatic isolation, and it may want US assistance in pushing Taiwan into reunification talks.

More worryingly, China is keen to see an American arms embargo on Taiwan. "The US is almost our sole arms supplier," said Shaw Yu-Ming, head of the government's international relations think-tank.

However, he thinks this is unlikely and explains why Taiwan is more relaxed about US-Sino relations. "We now realise," he said, "that stable and co-op-



Siew: 'America will not sacrifice us to Peking'

active relations between the United States and China will not necessarily work against us." The new thinking in Taiwan is that a stable China is good news because a country with difficulties, or worse, in turmoil, might be tempted into unpredictable military adventures across the Taiwan Strait.

Mr Siew stresses the need for a "pragmatic approach" to talks about reunification, making it clear that Taiwan will not make knee-jerk responses to sounding off from China.

In theory, both sides are working towards reunification but in practice they are always thinking of hundreds of reasons why it will not work. "Reunification is a long-term proposition," said Dr Shaw. "It will take decades to fulfil. There's no reason to hurry."

Mr Siew, who stresses he is ready for talks with mainland China at any time, also makes his timetable clear. "China will be unified under a system of prosperity, freedom and democracy," he said. "Then it will be naturally unified."

No one in Taiwan seriously believes that China is anywhere close to fulfilling these criteria. Meanwhile, although neither side is happy with the status quo, they can live with it. This, therefore, is not so much a peaceful as a case of prag-

matic coexistence. Although there was a nasty stand-off in the Taiwan Strait almost three years ago, when China flexed its muscles to warn Taiwan not to try and get closer to the US, the governments in Peking and Taipei prefer to stalk around each other like leopards rather than attack like tigers.

The pragmatic coexistence could be in jeopardy if the US were to use the opportunity of the Clinton visit to further distance itself from Taiwan. This, say Taiwan government officials, might persuade the Chinese that the time has come to abandon the cautious route to reunification and embark on a more dangerous path.

The President's advisers are well aware of this danger but they also recognise that Mr Clinton cannot go to China empty-handed. Most of the gestures China would like the Americans to make carry a high domestic political price tag. The sacrifice of Taiwan's interests might look like a cheaper option.

PHILIP HENSHER

'Have we really reached the point where we think critics are more interesting, more valuable, than what they write about?'

THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4



LACOSTE

CATHOLICS!
The Traditional Latin Mass is still widely celebrated with Episcopal permission. It is often sung with Gregorian chant. If you would like to worship at this rite of Mass Contact:
The Latin Mass Society
for an information pack
0171 404 4959 24hrs

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Lourho sells hotel chain

Lourho has sold its Princess Hotels chain to Canadian Pacific Hotels and Resorts for US\$540m (£330m). The price includes \$71m of debt and Lourho will use \$56m of the proceeds to repay the balance of the division's debt. Lourho shares rose 16p to 307p. Meanwhile Lourho Africa, the trading interests demerged from Lourho last month, revealed losses of £3.3m including £4.9m of exceptional charges in the six months to 31 March. But the shares rose 4p to 80p after the company confirmed a mystery consortium has acquired over 4 per cent of the shares. Mystery shareholder, page 21



Redemption penalties

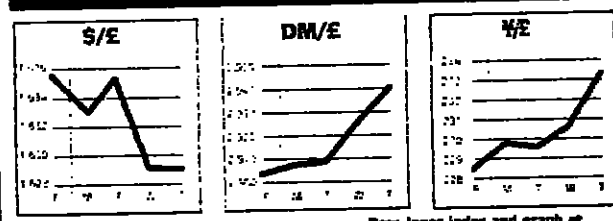
Building societies yesterday backed away from an outright call to ban redemption penalties on variable rate mortgages but said there was an urgent need for more transparency in mortgage selling. The Buildings Societies Association said redemption penalties had increased the complexity of mortgages and caused existing customers to get a poor deal compared to new customers. Redemption penalties lock customers in to a loan for a set period unless they pay a penalty, typically 3 per cent of the outstanding loan. They are most frequently used in mortgages where the lenders are taking a loss upfront in order to attract new business. These include discounted mortgages - where a lower rate is paid for the first few years - and cashbacks, where borrowers get a cash lump sum as part of the loan. Adrian Coles, director general of the BSA (pictured above) said the issue was becoming urgent because the housing market was slowing down, forcing lenders to compete in the re-mortgage market by using discounts and cashbacks.

Companies want euro listing

UK companies have made it clear to the Department of Trade and Industry that they want it to be made easy to redenominate their share capital into Euros at any time after 1 January 1999. Although few indicated that they had firm plans to do so, the strong preference for being able to suggests that many companies will in fact list their shares in the new single currency from next January.

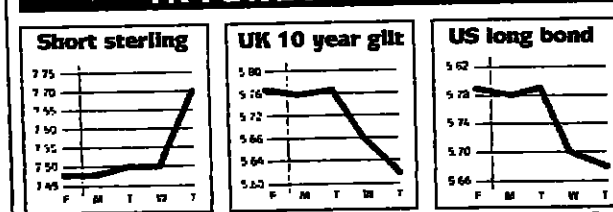
Report, page 18

STOCK MARKETS



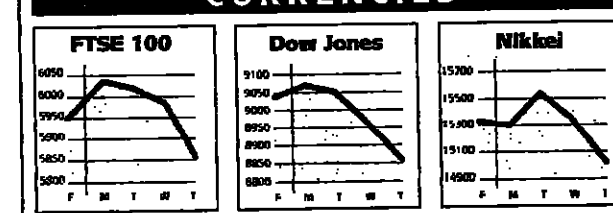
Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5852.50	-134.50	-2.25	6150.50	4.332.80
FTSE 250	5917.00	-19.50	-0.34	5970.90	5.384.20
FTSE 350	2632.00	-54.90	-1.86	2940.10	2141.80
FTSE All Share	2795.64	-51.19	-1.80	2872.04	2106.59
FTSE SmallCap	2767.40	-14.00	-0.50	2793.80	2182.10
FTSE Fledgling	517.50	-4.50	-0.30	517.10	1225.20
FTSE AIM	1137.80	-2.70	-0.24	1146.90	965.50
FTSE EBLIC 100	1045.88	8.23	0.84	926.91	6971.32
Dow Jones	2594.62	-117.33	-1.31	3261.91	9771.32
Nikkei	15014.04	-325.22	-2.12	20910.79	14488.21
Hong Kong	7385.07	-93.30	-1.17	16620.31	7906.39
Dax	5754.46	-5.57	-0.10	5787.70	3487.24

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month 1 yr	5 yr	10 yr	1 yr	5 yr	10 yr
UK	7.69	0.96	7.72	0.59	5.62	-1.48
US	5.69	-0.13	5.84	-0.34	5.48	-1.10
Japan	0.55	-0.05	0.58	-0.30	1.53	-1.16
Germany	3.57	0.42	3.91	0.62	4.77	-1.03

CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
Dollar	1.6398	+0.13	1.6307	1.5800	0.6132
Mark	2.8937	-0.86p	2.8184	2.7499	0.749p
Yen	226.40	-0.75	190.05	138.40	0.30
E index	103.50	-0.10	99.60	5 index	111.00

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	12.12	0.08	16.65	GDP	114.70	2.90
Gold (\$)	288.85	-4.40	343.85	RPI	162.60	4.00
Silver (\$)	5.31	-0.05	4.77	Base Rates	7.50	6.50

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6567	Mexican (nuevo peso)	12.89
Austria (schillings)	19.95	Netherlands (guilder)	3.1994
Belgium (francs)	58.67	New Zealand (\$)	3.1096
Canada (\$)	2.3249	Norway (krone)	12.07
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8316	Portugal (escudos)	289.67
Denmark (krone)	10.88	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9314
Finland (markka)	8.6838	Singapore (\$)	2.7043
France (francs)	9.5321	Spain (pesetas)	240.66
Germany (marks)	2.8514	South Africa (rand)	8.1884
Greece (drachma)	481.31	Sweden (krone)	12.68
Hong Kong (\$)	12.23	Switzerland (francs)	2.3598
Ireland (pounds)	1.1244	Thailand (bahts)	63.42
India (rupees)	63.39	Turkey (liras)	407752
Israel (shekels)	5.4852	USA (\$)	1.5901
Italy (lira)	2811		
Japan (yen)	226.19		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.2321		
Malta (lira)	0.6187		

Rates for indication purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

Mansion House speech: Targets raised by 2.25 per cent a year to fund investment

Brown raises spending limit

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

GORDON BROWN, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said current government spending will grow by 2.25 per cent over the next three years, the maximum possible while sticking to the Government's definition of "prudence".

In a wide-ranging overhaul of the country's finances, the Chancellor promised to increase the amount the government spends on capital projects to 1.5 per cent of gross domestic product from 0.75 per cent at the moment. That amounts to £29bn a year by 2002, the end of the current parliament.

It will allow the Government to reduce the ratio of current spending to GDP to below 40 per cent, Mr Brown told MPs, as a prelude to his Mansion House speech last night.

The overhaul represents the Government's attempt to raise standards of infrastructure such as public transport, schools and hospitals while at the same time maintaining a tight grip of day to day running costs. "Prudence" is still Mr Brown's watchword.

Also at the Mansion House Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, fiercely and wittily defended the Monetary Policy Committee's decision last week to raise interest rates by 0.25 per cent to 7.5 per cent. He said: "There is no question but that the strength of the domestic economy must moderate further - as indeed we expect that it will."

"But the external influences - which we can anyway not do much about, but which will in time wear off - made this moderation of domestic demand growth less immediately urgent than it would otherwise have been," said the Governor.

"In these circumstances, with some evidence that growth in the domestic economy was in fact slowing, and given



The Chancellor, Gordon Brown. He will increase spending but says "Prudence" is still his watchword

Brian Harris

the evident pressures on the internationally exposed sectors, we needed, in my view, to be more than usually confident in our judgment as to the need to tighten policy further," he said.

Mr George also attacked the media's fascination with

"hawks" and "doves" on the MPC. "Serious economic commentary seems - perhaps temporarily - to have faded some ground to ornithomancy - the ancient art of divining the future by observing the behaviour of birds."

The Chancellor told the House of Commons earlier that within the government's new fiscal framework, current spending will grow in line "with our cautious estimates of the trend rate of growth of the economy - that is 2.25 per cent

in real terms each year". In his March Budget the Chancellor published possible figures for spending growth of between 0.75 per cent and 2.25 per cent. He has plumped for the highest possible figure.

Mr Brown said that as a re-

sult of the need to take a more cautious fiscal approach "the plans we publish today are for a surplus on the current budget next year of £7 billion; in 2000-2001 £10bn and in 2001-2002 a surplus of £13bn". He added that current spending is now planned to be 39.25 per cent of GDP every year for the rest of the parliament.

The Chancellor went on: "In the interests of greater stability I propose to bear down on the debt: GDP ratio. Indeed the plans we are publishing show the debt ratio falling from 45 per cent when we came into government to 40.5 per cent next year and in the following years down again to 39.5 and 38.25 per cent."

"Britain will now plan on the basis that our debt:GDP ratio will be 40 per cent or lower."

"As a result of our two fiscal rules public sector net borrowing which was over 3 per cent of GDP in the last cycle (1985-96 to 1996-97) will average 0.2 per cent for the parliament, 0.3 per cent next year, 0 per cent for the following two years and 0.1 per cent the year after that."

"This government recognises that we must invest properly in our economic and social infrastructure to equip us for the future," Mr Brown said, adding that the government is setting up a new programme "investing in Britain's future".

The Government also plans to raise £1 bn a year from "surplus asset sales", Mr Brown said.

Worries over Asian economies send leading shares tumbling

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed sharply lower yesterday, suffering its second biggest points fall of the year, as worries over the fragile health of Asian economies persisted. By the close, the blue chip index had

fallen 134.9 points, or 2.3 per cent, to 5,852.5. In the US the Dow Jones Industrial Average added to the weak tone falling 122 points at one stage. Equity strategists said one concern was the possible threat of higher US interest rates.

The slump wiped £27.58bn off UK stock market values with Footsie los-

ing £24.3bn alone. The biggest losers were exporters due to the continued strength of sterling boosted by last week's interest rate rise.

Companies with Far East links also suffered. Fallers included British Steel, Billiton and Rolls Royce. Asda bucked the trend helped by strong market share gains.

Richard Jeffrey, group economist at Charterhouse Bank said: "The Far East has probably set the underlying tone with Hong Kong falling nearly 500 points over two days."

"There are some worries about the growth implied in the US figures and whether that might lead to higher rates."

"And there is also a general concern about precisely what is going on in the UK at the moment."

The pound put edged up to 1.629 against the dollar against the previous day's 1.628 close. The Yen dropped sharply to 143.65 against the dollar against the previous day's figure of 141.3.

Ideal Hardware gloomy

IDEAL HARDWARE, the computer components distributor, yesterday pointed to falling prices and oversupply in the computer hardware market as it issued its second gloomy trading statement of the year, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

"The market is undoubtedly pretty miserable at the moment," said James Wickes, Ideal's managing director. He said excess supplies of disk drives and other hardware products had forced down prices and squeezed margins.

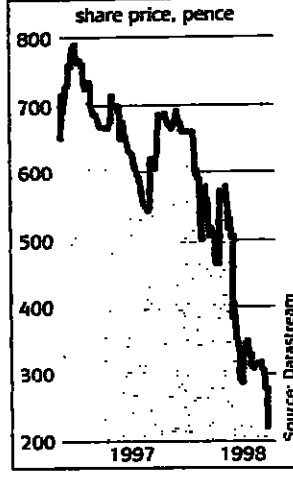
Ideal shares fell 40p to 235p as the company warned that its third-quarter trading levels were "significantly below the comparable period for last year" although it said fourth-quarter results had improved.

The warning is the latest disappointment in a gloomy year for Ideal. In March, the company's share price fell sharply as it complained of the unpredictability and volatility of the global IT market. The shares, which peaked at close to 800p late last year, have since lost al-

most three-quarters of their value. The statement mirrors gloomy predictions from large US computer manufacturers such as Compaq, which have also been hit by price competition and a market slowdown.

Nevertheless, Mr Wickes pointed out that the company had made massive improvements to its business. "We're feeling quite happy about the future," he said. In a statement, Ideal said its performance for the full year would be in line with market expectations.

IDEAL HARDWARE



US bank set for flotation

BY ANDREW VERITY

GOLDMAN SACHS partners are poised to vote strongly in favour tomorrow of a \$35bn flotation of the US bank, according to the latest soundings.

Despite rumours of a close vote, sources close to the bank said its 193 partners would be "very surprised" if a majority opposed flotation when they vote at a meeting in Rye Brook, near Manhattan.

"There's obviously a fair head of steam building up in favour of doing it," the source said. Partners are believed to be set for windfall payouts of at least \$100m each.

Jon Corzine, the managing partner who is rumoured to be in line for a payout worth \$800m, will take further soundings today to confirm there is a consensus behind the proposals. A yes vote tomorrow would lead to a further vote when financial details have been finalised.

The bank is known to be keen to appease the so-called "marzipan layer" of senior managers who will be robbed of the chance to become a partner. Their 210 most senior managers are likely to get at least \$5m each.

Distribution of the windfall will be staggered. Partners are expected to get an amount that matches their time at the bank. At the London branch, 35 partners will benefit.

Goldman has faced some internal opposition to the idea of floating from partners who believe the bank's success is founded on its unique partnership culture. Six votes have gone against flotation in the past, including one just two years ago.

However, analysts believe New York banks are increasingly keen to expand abroad in the race to become global players. Flotation would make it much easier for Goldman Sachs to expand by acquisition.

United Friendly fined for charges

UNITED FRIENDLY Unit Trust Managers was yesterday fined £80,000 and ordered to pay £200,000 compensation for taking money from its unit trusts and paying it into the company, writes Andrew Verity.

Imro, the investment regulator, found that the company had taken charges totalling £200,000 from three unit trusts under its management.

The charges, made between

October 1994 and December 1996, broke a rule which insists that companies must only take charges if they have been explicitly set out in the scheme particulars of a unit trust. It is understood that 1000 policyholders were affected.

United Friendly was also in breach of rules setting out the kind of charges which a unit trust manager is allowed to take from a unit trust.

Imro has ordered the company to pay its costs of £22,161 as well as paying the £200,000 compensation to the unit trusts.

The company yesterday insisted it believed it had acted correctly in connection with the charges.

The fine represents another blow for United Assurance, the listed parent company, which owns 100 per cent of the unit trust company.

United has been without a permanent chief executive since January last year, as it struggles to integrate the businesses of United Friendly and Refuge, which originally merged in October 1996.

Dr George Mack was appointed in October 1996 to steer the merger through, but resigned in November. He will be replaced by Alan Frost, of Abbey Life, in July.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

Shares fell sharply over a wide front, after worries about Asia, the strong pound and fears of higher US interest rates. The market's valuation slumped by £27.58bn with Footsie constituents accounting for £24.3bn. The blue chip index lost 134.9 points, its second-biggest fall this year, to 5,852.5. Pound-sensitive shares led the retreat with British Steel off 10p to 140p and Rolls-Royce down 13.25p to 264p. The Asian turmoil cut banking giant HSBC 63p to 1,447p. See Market Report, page 23

NEW YORK

US STOCKS fell for a second day on concern that a weakening Japanese yen could cause a prolonged period of weak demand in Asia for US goods. Exxon Corp and other oil companies led the decline.

With the yen a fraction away from an eight-year low against the dollar, investors say other countries in Asia may let their currencies fall so that their exports can remain competitive, making US goods more expensive throughout the region.

TOKYO

JAPANESE STOCKS tumbled to a six-month low as the yen continued to lose ground to the dollar, pulling down currencies and markets around Asia. The benchmark Nikkei 225 index fell 2.13 per cent to 15,014.04 - its lowest since 14 January. Banks fell 3 per cent as investors worried declining Asian currencies could multiply defaults by regional borrowers. Japan's 19 largest banks, which wrote off \$75.6bn in non-performing assets last year, said they had \$131.9bn in loans to Asia as of March.

PARIS

SHARES IN Paris closed sharply lower following Wall Street's decline in early trading as Asian worries pummeled European bourses. The CAC-40 finished 66.99 points lower at 4,141.61, up from a low of 4,135.45 reached minutes before the market closed, with dealers saying investors were looking for an excuse to book profits following Wednesday's record setting session. Dealers said the World Cup and the German holiday provided some distractions.

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN STOCKS fell to their lowest level in five months amid concern economic growth will slow after two of the largest banks said they are increasing fixed home loan interest rates.

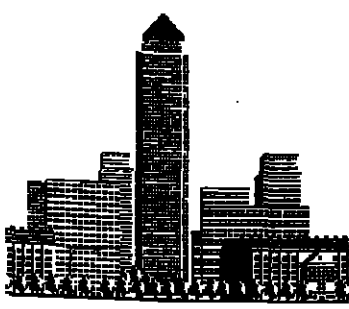
The benchmark All Ordinaries index fell 34.2 points to 2,558.7. The index has fallen for eight consecutive days. The Sydney-based international media group News Corp paced the decline, although it later rose in New York on news of the sale of its TV Guide unit to United Video for \$2bn.

A bruising battle with Brussels

ONE OF the longest running and most expensive regulatory scraps ever to have confronted Europe's competition authorities is about to reach its final denouement after a marathon two years of argument and counter-argument. In the next couple of weeks, the European Commission is due to pronounce on the planned alliance between British Airways and American Airlines. And if, as seems likely, the Commission puts the kibosh on the whole thing by demanding an unacceptably high price for regulatory clearance, British Airways will only have itself to blame. That, at least, is how BA's dogfight with European regulators has been quite widely depicted.

From the start, it can be argued, BA mishandled and mismanaged its case. The result? A commercial alliance which on its initial timetable should by now have been well established, has become so mired in argument with the European Commission that it might not happen at all. By unnecessarily antagonising Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, BA has ensured a storm force 10 crossing which could put paid to its plans altogether.

In the meantime, the world's



OUTLOOK

favourite airline has missed out on two years of corporate development, two years in which many of its competitors have forged rival, albeit smaller, alliances that pose a serious challenge to BA's present supremacy in the air.

Well, that's the case for the prosecution, but is it actually proven? Certainly BA has not been as adroit as it perhaps should have been, either on the public relations front, where it has been outclassed by Richard Branson and others, or more crucially with Mr Van Miert. Its often combative and provocative approach is in marked contrast to the quiet professionalism with which Guinness and Grand Metropolitan successfully

pursued their merger proposal with European regulators.

This is an odd mistake for BA's Bob Ayling to have made, for he is as savvy and switched-on a chief executive as it is possible to find. His style is a complete contrast with that of the profoundly Eurosceptic Lord King, whose battles with the European Commission have left a lasting memory. But it was not a mistake entirely of BA's own making.

BA got off to a bad start with Mr Van Miert by insisting the alliance was not a European jurisdictional matter at all and should be vetted by UK regulators, who could incidentally be expected to take a more sympathetic view. This was not an unreasonable position to take. Certainly it was based on sound legal advice and it was supported by the UK government of the time.

Other similar alliances between American and European airlines had not been deemed to fall within the Commission's remit, and there was no obvious reason to believe Mr Van Miert would use a quite obscure area of European competition law to claw this one back. But then this was the big daddy of code-sharing alliances, the straw that broke the camel's back as it were, and Mr Van

Miert's interference was always a possibility. BA then inexplicably exacerbated the situation by insulting Mr Van Miert and his officials, accusing them of "sloppy analysis" and claiming they didn't know what they were talking about.

It's always annoying to have to deal with officialdom but the first rule is that it pays to grovel, however humiliating the experience. For reasons of arrogance and tradition, BA failed this test, though to be fair it was not helped in its endeavour by the UK government, which unexpectedly changed its stance and decided to leave the whole thing to Mr Van Miert.

If this shift of approach had coincided with the change of government to the present, more pro-European regime, it might have been explainable, but actually it preceded John Major's demise.

So what happened was not entirely BA's fault. All the same, a climate of hostility was created which slowed progress and made an acceptable compromise much harder to achieve. Plainly that amounts to a failing on BA's part.

In the end, however, Mr Van Miert is not the type to allow the personal to interfere with the professionalism

of his decision-making. Certainly, the idea that BA is being punished for being British, or that Mr Van Miert is deliberately trying to disadvantage BA commercially against rival European airlines, is so much stuff and nonsense.

Mr Van Miert has taken what most people would see as a perfectly reasonable view of the alliance - that since it would have 70 per cent of London to New York traffic and through that a very substantial proportion of all traffic between Europe and the US, it is potentially highly anti-competitive. However you cut the argument, and BA cuts it in every way imaginable, there is no escaping this underlying truth. From a public interest perspective, Mr Van Miert is therefore right to demand a substantial ceding of Heathrow take-off and landing slots as his price for clearance.

By the same token, however, if Mr Van Miert is to be seen to be even handed he must now act as a matter of urgency to the Luftansa/United, Northwest/KLM and Delta/Sabena alliances. The airline business is still a very long way from being a properly competitive market place, and the first of these alliances seems deliberately designed to shore

up the old national monopolies which have for so long ruled this industry. Mr Van Miert's failure to tackle these early code-sharing arrangements is what encouraged BA to seek an alliance with AA in the first place. BA may have overplayed its hand, but its reasons for doing so are entirely understandable.

Another step towards stability

AT FIRST glance, Gordon Brown seems to have been rather more generous in the new public spending parameters outlined in last night's Mansion House speech than his reputation for donning the hair kilt ought to allow. Real increases in public spending of 2.25 per cent a year for the rest of this parliament is at the very top end of the range of possibilities suggested in the Budget red book.

But let's not be too harsh on the old puritan. The kilt seems quite hairy enough, thank you very much. The whole of that increase is to be targeted at investment in the Government's priorities of education, health and infrastructure; the tid is to be

held down firmly on public sector pay, social security and other forms of spending. Furthermore, by imposing these constraints on himself, the Chancellor has left himself virtually no scope for a big pre-election giveaway. He must be the first post-war Chancellor ever to have done that.

We've desperately tried in these columns to find fault with the new Government's macro-economic policy. What other purpose are we here for but to criticise? But so far to no avail.

Even with this extra spending on investment, the Chancellor should still be able comfortably to meet his so far unpublished target of reducing the national debt to below 40 per cent of GDP. Mr Brown can certainly be faulted for some of the micro-economic measures his department is seeking through, but on the broader picture he hasn't yet put a foot wrong.

The traditional fudge and self-interested nature of British economic policy is progressively giving way to a prudent, modern and above all predictable and stable approach to the broad outline of taxation and public spending. Business and enterprise has rarely had the prospect of a better long term environment.



Alan Greenspan (main photograph), chairman of the Federal Reserve, is talking about the end of history, and technological revolutions, as led by, left from bottom, Bill Gates, Lawrence Ellison and Andrew Grove

American economy goes 'beyond history'

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

GOOD CENTRAL bankers are by nature pathologically careful people, not given to leaps of the imagination or metaphysical speculation. So when Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, starts talking about the end of history and technological revolutions, something odd is surely going on.

Mr Greenspan, speaking to Congress on Wednesday, assessed the state of the US economy and the prospects for monetary policy. His testimony was woven through with a subdued astonishment at the state of America, currently in the throes of a fully-fledged expansion, yet with no apparent signs of a pick-up in inflation despite the lowest unemployment for nearly 30 years and a stock market that is racing ahead.

News Analysis: The Fed Chairman marvels at the continuing 'virtuous cycle' - but he still has his worries

that the strong dollar, buoyant domestic demand and Asia had hit exports hard, reducing the annual growth rate of real GDP by 2.5 percentage points in the first quarter. None the less, the economy still grew amazingly fast, by 4.8 per cent. The domestic economy is racing ahead, and yet there are no signs so far of the inflationary pressure that would tip the Fed into raising rates.

"Our economy is still enjoying a virtuous cycle," he said. "Rising equity values are providing impetus for spending and, in turn, the expansion of output, employment and productivity-enhancing capital investment. The hopes for accelerated productivity growth have been bolstered by expectations of future corporate earnings and thereby fuelling still further increases in equity values." Investors continue to believe that this will be sustained, and so it is.

But it was at this point that he sounded a note of concern. "These rising expectations have, in turn, driven stock prices sharply higher and credit spreads lower, perhaps to levels that will be difficult to sustain unless economic conditions remain exceptionally favourable - more so than might be anticipated from historical relationships."

In a previous experience, in 1996, Mr Greenspan had warned of "irrational exuberance" in the stock market, and clearly he is still worried that

the continuing rise of stock markets is out of kilter with what anyone could reasonably expect from the real economy. What concerns the Fed Chairman, above all, is the labour market. Unemployment is running at a 28-year low, yet so far there is no sign that is feeding through into inflationary wage claims. "The adverse wage-price interactions that played so central a role in pushing inflation higher in many past business expansions eventually bringing those to an end - do not appear to have gained a significant foothold in the current expansion."

Wage increases have kept pace with growth, partly because of job insecurity and the weakness of the union movement at the beginning of the expansion. But productivity growth is the main explanation, with new investment in technology benefiting the service sector and manufacturing industry alike. If workers get paid more and they produce more, that doesn't boost inflation, it just helps to stimulate a healthy economy.

In the past, wage rises have often tipped over into price rises, dragging a healthy economy into recession. But maybe everything has changed. Some economists speak of the New Paradigm in the US economy, whereby new technology, the defeat of inflation and the expansion of free markets removes the barriers to growth,

creating a revolution in growth. Mr Greenspan alluded to this, speaking of "a major technological transformation of the economy". But he doubtless remembers similar arguments from the 1980s.

Above all, Mr Greenspan points to a set of very simple, unarguable numbers. There aren't enough people to allow the labour market to continue to expand as fast as it is. The working population is increasing by about 1 per cent a year; employment is rising by 2 per cent a year. The difference is about 1.2 million people a year.

The argument may be about the labour market, but it is addressed squarely to Wall Street. Interest rate rises aren't around the corner, but they will be if there is no adjustment. The stock and bond markets clearly believe that Mr Greenspan will not do anything soon, to judge by the reactions yesterday. Partly that is because he still sees no direct evidence of inflation returning to the system. Partly, they believe he will not take away the punchbowl because the Asians have just arrived, and they need a drink. Raising interest rates now would send a shockwave through weak Asian economies and do further damage to Russia.

The Fed hasn't yet said anything to upset this conventional wisdom. Its chairman has, cautiously, subscribed to the New Paradigm thinking, without buying into it wholesale. Mr Greenspan is too good a central banker to appear complacent, or to shock the markets with a sudden change of mind. But clearly he is worried that when the time does come to change his mind, it may be too late.

British Telecom to reveal access to European network

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

BRITISH TELECOM will today reveal that it has access to an extensive pan-European telecom network, opening up a potentially huge corporate customer base and allowing it to compete on equal terms with its main competitors.

In a long-awaited update, BT will today for the first time disclose detailed information about its holdings in continental Europe. The figures are expected to show that BT has a more extensive European network than most of its rivals, which include US giants such as WorldCom and AT&T.

BT will show that, just six months after telecom markets in France and Germany were first opened up to competition, its associate companies in

those countries have successfully lured hundreds of thousands of customers away from the old state monopolies.

The success of these operators gives BT a large base of corporate customers to which it can sell its international call services. What is more, by using its own networks BT is able to deliver telecom traffic at much cheaper rates than if it had to use the networks owned by established operators.

Over the past few years, BT has been preparing for European telecom deregulation by entering into joint ventures with local operators and joining in the bidding for new mobile telecom licences.

The group now has 12 operating licences in continental Europe, more than any other operator. Although many are

held with other utilities and telecom firms, the ability to connect the different operators together effectively gives BT access to a pan-European customer base.

The long-distance networks in each country are designed in the same way, allowing them to be linked together using sophisticated technology. This gives BT a network which stretches across Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands and allows it to take on large US operators in the race to supply sophisticated international telephone and data communications services.

Analysts will be keen to hear about progress at Cegetel, the French fixed and mobile operator in which BT holds a 26 per cent stake. The company, which is building a long-distance net-

work in Northern France, is estimated to have signed up more than 200,000 residential customers since launching the service in February. Meanwhile SFR, the group's mobile service, now boasts more than 2.5m customers - twice the number it had a year ago. Chris Godsmark, telecoms analyst at stockbrokers Henderson Crosthwaite, estimates that BT's stake in Cegetel is now worth £3.2bn, compared with the £1bn that BT paid for it in September 1996.

Analysts are also expecting more financial detail on BT's European businesses. Robert Brace, the group's finance director, surprised investors last month when he predicted that losses in continental Europe would peak at about £200m this year.

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	PRICE	CHG	%CHG		PRICE	CHG	%CHG
London	387.00		5.58	Albright & Whitsett	101.00		0.00
Man GPF	228.50		5.06	B&W	120.75		-0.75
Electronics	284.80		4.72	Boat Store	148.00		-0.00
Subscribers	1598.90		4.22	Boat Store	48.00		-0.00
Martley	128.00		4.02	CG	1148.00		-0.00
All Telecom	912.00		3.06	CG	582.00		-0.00
Verio	327.50		3.46	CG & Winkler	85.00		-0.00
Cadence	222.00		3.24	Harshman	851.00		-0.00
Asia Group	191.25		3.24	Harshman	498.00		-0.00

MARKET LEADERS

TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm

Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.
Microsoft	1,178,000	Apple	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Apple	1,178,000
IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000
Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000
Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000
IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000
Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000
Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000
IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000
Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000
Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000
IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000
Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000
Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000
IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000
Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000
Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000
IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000
Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000
Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000	Microsoft	1,178,000
IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000	IBM	1,178,000
Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000	Oracle	1,178,000

FTSE 100 INDEX

HOUR BY HOUR

Open	5997.4	Down 18.3	1500	5993.6	Down 35.8	1500	5994.5	Down
High	5997.4	Down 18.3	1500	5993.6	Down 35.8	1500	5994.5	Down
Low	5993.1	Down 24.3	1400	5942.4	Down 45.0	1500	5952.5	Down

Stock	Price	Chg	%Chg	Stock	Price	Chg	%Chg
100	147	4	2.7	300	34	3	8.8
101	147	4	2.7	301	34	3	8.8
102	147	4	2.7	302	34	3	8.8
103	147	4	2.7	303	34	3	8.8
104	147	4	2.7	304	34	3	8.8
105	147	4	2.7	305	34	3	8.8
106	147	4	2.7	306	34	3	8.8
107	147	4	2.7	307	34	3	8.8
108	147	4	2.7	308	34	3	8.8
109	147	4	2.7	309	34	3	8.8
110	147	4	2.7	310	34	3	8.8
111	147	4	2.7	311	34	3	8.8
112	147	4	2.7	312	34	3	8.8
113	147	4	2.7	313	34	3	8.8
114	147	4	2.7	314	34	3	8.8
115	147	4	2.7	315	34	3	8.8
116	147	4	2.7	316	34	3	8.8
117	147	4	2.7	317	34	3	8.8
118	147	4	2.7	318	34	3	8.8
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125	147	4	2.7	325	34	3	8.8
126	147	4	2.7	326	34	3	8.8
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128	147	4	2.7	328	34	3	8.8
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130	147	4	2.7	330	34	3	8.8
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142	147	4	2.7	342	34	3	8.8
143	147	4	2.7	343	34	3	8.8
144	147	4	2.7	344	34	3	8.8
145	147	4	2.7	345	34	3	8.8
146	147	4	2.7	346	34	3	8.8
147	147	4	2.7	347	34	3	8.8
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195	147	4	2.7	395	34	3	8.8
196	147	4	2.7	396	34	3	8.8
197	147	4	2.7	397	34	3	8.8
198	147	4	2.7	398	34	3	8.8
199	147	4	2.7	399	34	3	8.8
200	147	4	2.7	400	34	3	8.8

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102	147	4	2.7	302	34	3	8.8
103	147	4	2.7	303	34	3	8.8
104	147	4	2.7	304	34	3	8.8
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134	147	4	2.7	334	34	3	8.8
135	147	4	2.7	335	34	3	8.8
136	147	4	2.7	336	34	3	8.8
137	147	4	2.7	337	34	3	8.8
138	147	4	2.7	338	34	3	8.8
139	147	4	2.7	339	34	3	8.8
140	147	4	2.7				

1500	1501	1502	1503	1504	1505	1506	1507	1508	1509	1510	1511	1512	1513	1514	1515	1516	1517	1518	1519	1520	1521	1522	1523	1524	1525	1526	1527	1528	1529	1530	1531	1532	1533	1534	1535	1536	1537	1538	1539	1540	1541	1542	1543	1544	1545	1546	1547	1548	1549	1550	1551	1552	1553	1554	1555	1556	1557	1558	1559	1560	1561	1562	1563	1564	1565	1566	1567	1568	1569	1570	1571	1572	1573	1574	1575	1576	1577	1578	1579	1580	1581	1582	1583	1584	1585	1586	1587	1588	1589	1590	1591	1592	1593	1594	1595	1596	1597	1598	1599	1600	1601	1602	1603	1604	1605	1606	1607	1608	1609	1610	1611	1612	1613	1614	1615	1616	1617	1618	1619	1620	1621	1622	1623	1624	1625	1626	1627	1628	1629	1630	1631	1632	1633	1634	1635	1636	1637	1638	1639	1640	1641	1642	1643	1644	1645	1646	1647	1648	1649	1650	1651	1652	1653	1654	1655	1656	1657	1658	1659	1660	1661	1662	1663	1664	1665	1666	1667	1668	1669	1670	1671	1672	1673	1674	1675	1676	1677	1678	1679	1680	1681	1682	1683	1684	1685	1686	1687	1688	1689	1690	1691	1692	1693	1694	1695	1696	1697	1698	1699	1700	1701	1702	1703	1704	1705	1706	1707	1708	1709	1710	1711	1712	1713	1714	1715	1716	1717	1718	1719	1720	1721	1722	1723	1724	1725	1726	1727	1728	1729	1730	1731	1732	1733	1734	1735	1736	1737	1738	1739	1740	1741	1742	1743	1744	1745	1746	1747	1748	1749	1750	1751	1752	1753	1754	1755	1756	1757	1758	1759	1760	1761	1762	1763	1764	1765	1766	1767	1768	1769	1770	1771	1772	1773	1774	1775	1776	1777	1778	1779	1780	1781	1782	1783	1784	1785	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790	1791	1792	1793	1794	1795	1796	1797	1798	1799	1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815	1816	1817	1818	1819	1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
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هَذَا مِنْ الْأَصْلِ

Blue chips hit by Asian worries

BLUE CHIPS suffered their third heaviest fall since order-driven trading was introduced in October last year.

Footsie ended at its lowest of the day, off 134.9 points at 5,852.5, as the stock market decided to fret about Asia - there was even talk of a Chinese devaluation - and the Russian turmoil. When New York displayed similar symptoms, plus the added worry of higher interest rates, the market's cup of woe was complete. Another strong sterling performance added to Footsie's tribulations.

It was the escalating Asian crisis which gave the order book such a bruising launch on what became known as Brown Monday. On the following Thursday Footsie endured a 157.5 fall and at one time on the Friday was smashed a record 457.9 before ending off 85.3. In April US interest rate fears caused a 141.5 fall.

Many observers believe the inherent volatility of the order book exaggerates Footsie's moves. Supporting shares, mostly traded through the market-making system, suffered much less severely with

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

the mid cap index off 19.9 points at 5,917.0 and the small cap 14 lower at 2,787.4.

The Footsie fall, calculated by Datastream, was £24.3bn; the overall market decline was £27.58bn.

Only 11 Footsie constituents made headway. Best of the bunch was Asda, up 6p at 191.25p as independent research said it was the best performer of the top four supermarkets. Buy advice from Dresner Kleinwort Benson was another influence. An upbeat trading statement lifted Tesco 10p at one time but the shares succumbed

to the general unease, ending 3p off at 540p.

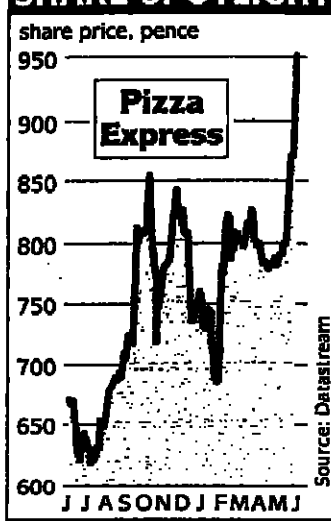
SmithKline Beecham was another to give up much of its earlier gain. At one time 34.5p higher, it closed with a 3p plus at 718p. The Glaxo Wellcome imbroglio continues to dominate sentiment but a presentation on its diabetes drug was also a factor.

Other Footsie stocks to struggle higher include Nycomed and Whitbread.

Pound-sensitive shares were hammered. British Steel tumbled 10p to 140p; GKN 42p to 830p and Siebe 60p to 1,260p. Rolls-Royce dived 15.25p to 264p. Besides sterling, Rolls was hit by Boeing's decision to curb production. The aero engine group is also a casualty of Asia's woes as airlines delay orders for new aircraft.

Cable & Wireless fell 35p to 685p as ABN Amro placed 7 million shares at 700p. The group's cable offshoot, C&W Communications, fell 25.5p at 474.5p as the market prepared for the sale of 14.25 per cent of the capital today. But the market slide could force a rethink. Goldman Sachs is handling the placing of

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Canada's BCE stake and was said to have settled on a price of 475p. BTR ended 6p off at 180p (after 175p) and TI fell 27p to 552p. HSBC and Standard Chartered were obvious casualties on their extensive Far East exposure. The ordinary HSBC shares tumbled 60p to 1,447p and Standard 27.5p to 660p. Other financials were weak

after their recent strength. Halifax fell 34p to 827p.

Somerfield, the supermarket chain, lost 11p to 361p as a large line was placed by BT Alex Brown and Goldman Sachs. The two are thought to have acquired around 8 per cent of the company at 346.04p, selling on at 350p. The US houses should have made around £1m between them.

Cazenove hit GRE with sell advice; the shares fell 15p to 374p. Bilton, the mining group, remained under the whip of a stock overhang, falling 7.75p to 128.25p. DKB is thought to have chomped lines of stock on its book, acquired around the 155p mark. Loughor, at last selling its Princess Hotels, rose 10p to 307p.

SHL, a business training group, had the dubious distinction of achieving the biggest fall. Nothing to do with Asia, etc, simply disappointing profits. The hitherto high-flying shares collapsed by 45 per cent to 144p. Ideal Hardware, a distributor, fell 40p to 235p after a downbeat trading statement.

The gloom did not, however, get to FizzExpress. The restaurant

chain's remarkable run continued with the shares 28.5p higher at a 950p peak in brisk trading. Five years ago the shares were 75p.

Long-suffering Powerscreen, the troubled engineer, managed a rally, up 23p (48 per cent) to 70.5p despite an announcement of institutional selling.

Comino, the software group, rose 9p to 267.5p as results came in at £1.95m against £1.4m. The market expects around £2.4m this year.

HR Owen, the upmarket car dealer, purred 1.5p higher to 20.25p, highest for three years. Heavy trading suggested that Ong Beng Seng, the Malaysian businessman, may have reduced his remaining interest. The shares were 15p when he sold the bulk of his stake last week.

Vaux, the Sunderland brewer and hotelier which has received an "unsolicited" takeover approach, held at 356p. Its new chief executive, Martin Grant, joins on June 22. He has been recruited from Allied Domecq. Another regional brewer, Marston Thompson & Evershed, sold its third interest in the Mercury Taverns chain for around £2m. The shares fell 13.5p to 340p.

ORIEL ROSE 9.5p to 102p as Oman National Holding Co said it was in talks to buy the insurance broker. The market talk is that an offer of around 125p will appear. Oriel has been in takeover talks on and off in recent times. At one time Aon, the US giant, was near to completing a deal.

ANOTHER INSURANCE group, Ockham, should enjoy a heady profits run, says stockbroker Greig Middleton. It forecasts a modest loss this year but then profits of £2.6m followed by £13.4m and £22.6m. The insurance group recently sold stockbroker Wise Speke for £26.5m. Ockham shares held at 155p.

HEAVY TRADING in construction group Birse. National Westminster Bank is thought to have been involved. The bank declared a 16.08 per cent stake. The shares firmed to 24p.

Atkins finds road to privatised profit

WS ATKINS is a tricky business to understand. It handles a bewildering spread of activities ranging from traditional consultancy for the construction industry to managing privatised roads, helping build the Kowloon to Canton Railway in Hong Kong, and working on decommissioning nuclear reactors.

For a company with this spread of business, Atkins is not that large. Yesterday it reported pre-tax profits of £30.5m on turnover of £365.8m. Nevertheless, it has a terrific growth record - operating profits have quadrupled in the past five years.

This should continue. Atkins has a strong position in outsourcing in the rail and road industries, making it well placed to profit from any boost to spending on transport. It should also benefit from the opening up of similar markets in continental Europe and the Far East, where it already earns a fifth of its revenues.

Property services have recently been more static but Atkins is confident it can expand its private facilities management work while also building private finance hospitals and schools.

The key to Atkins' success, however, will be whether it can win new business while also lifting margins. Return on sales hit a record 5.8 per cent last year but chief executive Michael Jeffries says margins should be more than 6 per cent. The other challenge is to expand internationally. Hence Atkins is ditching its archaic regional structure in favour of three UK divisions: property, transportation and industry, before extending the format abroad. The company also has a £50m cash pile to fund acquisitions.

Atkins' shares have had a tremendous run, more than doubling in value since they were floated two years ago. But on a multiple of 25 times forecast earnings the shares, which rose 4.5p to 555p yesterday, are still cheap for a business with Atkins' growth potential. Buy.

Lonrho Africa's defences weak

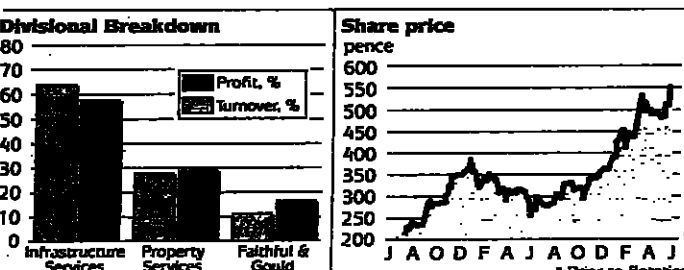
IF THE mystery shareholders who bought 4 per cent of Lonrho Africa this month do mount a bid, the company could have one of the shortest lives on the London stock market. The group itself remained tight-lipped about the speculation - which has named George Soros

INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

WS ATKINS: AT A GLANCE

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	154.0	196.0	236.0	328.0	366.0
Pre-tax profits (£m)	12.2	26.7	19.8	24.9	29.0
Earnings per share (p)		12.8	15.6	19.5	
Dividends per share (p)		5.1	6.9	8.1	



and former chief executive Tiny Rowland as bidders - saying it had not held any discussions with potential suitors.

The company's maiden results are not a strong defence against a predator. A combination of bad weather, political uncertainty and heavy devaluations of the currencies in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi led to an 18 per cent drop in turnover and a 43 per cent fall in operating profits to £13.2m for the six months to 31 March. Restructuring costs, mainly in the motor division, totalled £4.5m and interest charges on net debts of £11.3m ballooned to £10.6m - producing an overall loss of £2.3m.

The second half will benefit from the £48m cash injection from the company's former parent, Lonrho, which will help reduce debt. Further reorganisation costs should be small. The outlook for African currencies is also more stable.

Of Lonrho Africa's diverse collection of businesses, agribusiness usually does better in the second half of the year, while the motor division has shed costs.

A start has been made in selling the £23m property portfolio, and the troubled David Whitehead textile business is next up for sale or possible closure.

Analysts have slashed their forecasts for operating profits of around £29m in the full year. That puts the shares, which rallied 4p to 80p yesterday, on a forward earnings multiple of 14, falling to seven next year. For investors willing to take risks, a reasonable bet.

Testing time for SHL

FOR A company whose main function is psychometric testing for employment purposes, SHL has been spectacularly poor at analysing its own business prospects. Floated at 245p in October SHL has managed to fit two profits warnings into its brief stock market life. Yesterday's broadside knocked 45 per cent off the shares, taking them to 144p, well below the issue price.

The problem is America. The group has been guilty of over-optimism on sales. The conversion of prospects into revenues has been lower than expected, leading to a £1.6m first-half loss in the US compared to a small profit last time. A new chief operating officer has been appointed to help turn the situation around and costs are being trimmed.

It was the poor US performance that restricted first half profits to £4.5m, down from the previous year's £4.8m. Elsewhere the Meridian business in the UK and Ireland grew profits by more than 40 per cent, as did the European operation.

SHL's house broker has revised its full year forecast from £12.3m to £10m. That puts the shares on a suitably modest forward rating of around 14. It is too late for existing shareholders to sell now. For others the stock may look cheap but after two profits warnings SHL needs at least two good sets of figures to restore its damaged credibility. Potentially good value, but there is no rush.

IN BRIEF

Metals boost for Johnson Matthey

PROFITS AT Johnson Matthey rose 20 per cent to £130.2m in the year March on climbing sales of precious metals, materials used in the electronics industry and pollution control devices for cars, the engineering and ceramics group said yesterday.

The shares rose more than 3 per cent on the news, before closing down 5p at 612.5p as the market fell. Profits from precious metals, the company's largest division, benefited from volatile trading conditions arising from the suspension of shipments of platinum and palladium by Russia earlier this year.

Happy headhunters

WHITEHEAD MANN, the headhunters, made £3.4m in the year to March 31, an increase of 42 per cent on the profits prior to flotation costs in 1996-97. The executive search business is consolidating to offer a global service, and the company is well placed to benefit, Clive Mann, the chief executive said yesterday.

Lasmo go-ahead

LASMO YESTERDAY said it had reached an agreement with Indonesia that allows the UK oil company to drill exploration wells in an area close to big natural gas discoveries made by Atlantic Richfield Co and BG.

Under terms of the agreement, Lasmo gets a 60 per cent stake in any oil or gas found, with 40 per cent held by Pertamina, the Indonesian state oil company. Lasmo will drill two wells in the next three years, after conducting geologic surveys.

Lasmo shares, which have fallen 12 per cent in the past three weeks as oil prices tumbled, fell 10.25p to 257p.

Siebo court ruling

SIEBE, THE engineering company, yesterday said a Tokyo District Court had temporarily restrained the Japanese firm Nemic Lambda KK from reducing the UK company's stake in it.

Nemic-Lambda, a maker of switching regulators, is 50.6 per cent owned by Siebo Group and it said on 29 May it would add 6.5 million shares to a third party. The allocation would have reduced Siebo's stake in Nemic-Lambda to 38.4 per cent. A Siebo spokesman said the company was delighted and was now hoping that the court's decision would end its dispute with Nemic-Lambda.

Former MP gets a vote in a lobby group

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



MIKE THOMAS, a former MP and co-founder of the SDR, has joined a marketing company chaired by Viscount Chandos as a non-executive director.

Mr Thomas joins Tom Chandos on the board of Lopex, a lobbying and direct marketing group, following Lopex's acquisition of Fotomara, a promotions company for which Mr Thomas continues to be chairman. Lopex was originally the London Press Exchange, an ancient and venerable PR firm, if such a thing can be imagined. It owns Grayling PR and Westminster Strategy, the political lobbying firm. Its chief executive Peter Thomas (no relation) has rebuilt the group over the last five years after a sticky patch at the start of the decade.

Tom Chandos, the chairman, was once a leading light in Kleinwort Benson's corporate finance department before the Germans moved in. Mr Thomas was the member for Newcastle-upon-Tyne East 1974-83, and since he left Parliament he's built a career in public affairs. He's been a director of Dewe Rogers, a public relations arm and since 1988 he has owned and run Corporate Communications Strategy, an independent consultancy.

COLIN SHARMAN, chairman of KPMG International and one of the accountancy firm's stalwarts since he joined it 32 years ago, gets an honorary degree today from Cranfield University. The former Institute of Technology is also honouring Percy Burne, chairman of ABB Asia Brown Boveri, Investor AB and Sandvik.

Mr Sharmarman is one of the last surviving members of the British accountancy profession who isn't a graduate, so the Cranfield gong should give him special pleasure.

While most of the City is hooked to the TV screen and the World Cup, some of its members have flown off to Johannesburg for a no-expenses-spared wedding this Saturday.

Adonis Pournalis, 28, chairman of Petra Diamonds, an AIM-listed company with interests in Angola and South Africa, is getting spliced to Anita, a Greek girl born in SA. Amongst the 450 guests will be Aubrey de Margery, a salesman at Pritchards, the London brokers who brought Petra Diamonds to the market last April at 30p a share. Kevin Collins of Pritchards is also going, along with a gaggle of other City hangers-on.

Glanda Boswell, proprietress of Boswell City Financial PR, flew out on Wednesday, and tells me that the Archbishop of South Africa will officiate during the wedding. The Greek Ambassador will also be attending. Adonis's parents were born in Cyprus and emigrated to South Africa 40 years ago.

Money has been showered on the celebrations, says La Boswell. "A whole troupe of dancers and musicians

have been flown in from Cyprus." As for Adonis, she adds: "He's lovely. There will be a lot of ladies weeping into their handbags this weekend."

WHAT USED to be the dusty old HMSO is on the move. Now remodelled as The Stationery Office since its privatisation in September 1996, the publisher of Hansard and the Highway Code has got a new executive director, Fred Perkins.

Mr Perkins worked for the giant American publisher group McGraw Hill before he joined The Stationery Office two years ago. Before that he was executive director of electronic publishing at the Financial Times.

A MARKETING consultancy is offering us "the end of junk mail". If only. The solution to the ever-growing plague of unsolicited mail is more refined targeting techniques, according to FTW Precision Marketing, or more specifically, "psychographic profiling".

James Davies, the company's research and planning director, explains that psychographic profiling consists of researching how people feel about products.

For instance, he says, Volkswagen uses such methods to find out whether its customers are proud of their cars or merely view them as a mechanism for getting from A to B. So keen are FTW on this approach that they've hired a full-time psychologist, Dr Tamsin Addison, to carry out such research. Mr Davies says the important thing to consider is not how much people earn but how they spend it. "We call it the 'terraced house with the Ferrari in the drive' syndrome. Harmless enough tosh, you might think, but I doubt it will lessen the deluge of junk mail in the world."

Foreign Exchange Rates			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 month
Germany	100.00	2.7695	2.7695
Australia	2.7725	2.7695	2.7695
Austria	2.0172	2.0172	2.0172
Belgium	8.0172	8.0172	8.0172
Canada	2.3942	2.3942	2.3942
Denmark	1.1205	1.1205	1.1205
France	1.4905	1.4905	1.4905
Italy	8.9435	8.9435	8.9435
Japan	8.9435	8.9435	8.9435
Netherlands	2.3942	2.3942	2.3942
Portugal	20.4800	20.4800	20.4800
Spain	166.6400	166.6400	166.6400
Sweden	8.4664	8.4664	8.4664
Switzerland	1.4905	1.4905	1.4905
UK	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

Interest Rates			
Country	3 month	1 year	5 year
UK	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Australia	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Canada	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Denmark	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Netherlands	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Portugal	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Spain	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Sweden	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Switzerland	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
US	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

Life Financial Futures			
Contract	Settlement	High	Low
Long Jan-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Short Jan-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Long Feb-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Short Feb-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Long Mar-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Short Mar-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Long Apr-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Short Apr-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Long May-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Short May-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Long Jun-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Short Jun-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Long Jul-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Short Jul-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Long Aug-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Short Aug-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Long Sep-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Short Sep-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Long Oct-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Short Oct-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Long Nov-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Short Nov-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Long Dec-98	102.27	102.28	102.26
Short Dec-98	102.27	102.28	102.26

Industrial Metals			
Commodity	Unit	Price	Change
Aluminum	1000 lb	1.4500	+0.0100
Copper	100 lb	1.4500	+0.0100
Gold	1000 gms	380.00	+0.0000
Iron	1000 lb	1.4500	+0.0100
Nickel	100 lb	1.4500	+0.0100
Palladium	100 gms	1.4500	+0.0100
Platinum	100 gms	1.4500	+0.0100
Silver	1000 gms	1.4500	+0.0100
Zinc	100 lb	1.4500	+0.0100

Other Spot Rates			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 month
Argentina	100.00	100.00	100.00
Brazil	100.00	100.00	100.00
China	100.00	100.00	100.00
India	100.00	100.00	100.00
Indonesia	100.00	100.00	100.00
Malaysia	100.00	100.00	100.00
Philippines	100.00	100.00	100.00
Russia	100.00	100.00	100.00
South Africa	100.00	100.00	100.00
South Korea	100.00	100.00	100.00
Taiwan	100.00	100.00	100.00
Thailand	100.00	100.00	100.00
Turkey	100.00	100.00	100.00
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00

Money Market Rates			
Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months
UK	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Australia	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Canada	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Denmark	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Netherlands	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Portugal	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Spain	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Sweden	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Switzerland	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
US	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

Commodity Indices			
Commodity	Index	Price	Change
Oil	100.00	100.00	+0.0100
Grain	100.00	100.00	+0.0100
Metals	100.00	100.00	+0.0100
Softs	100.00	100.00	+0.0100

Aug98	25430	Jun98	86500	Jul98	7300	Jul98	23825	Jul98	27400
Oct98	26400	Jul98	85500	Sept8	7475	Sept8	23725	Aug98	17600
Dec98	26280	Oct98	90000	Nov98	7500	Dec98	24075	Sept98	27550
Vol	0	Vol	0	Vol	0	Vol	0	Vol	0

Other Softs AT 3:30PM									
Aug	Live Cattle	(CNE)	\$408 1/2	6838	Jun	Woolen Yarn	(TCM)	\$500/kg	125500
Jul	Pork Bellies	(CME)	\$16 1/2	10140	Jul	White Maize	(BAP)	\$100 mt	60400
Jul	Orange Juice	(CTN)	\$75k 1/2	10450	Jul	Chickens	(CTN)	\$50k 1/2	79 1/2
Jun	Milk	(CSC)	\$50k 1/2	-	Jul	Grade Fluid	(KLC)	\$25	234800
Jul	Dist	(COT)	\$5k 1/2	12150	Jul	Soy Oil	(COT)	\$50k 1/2	2607
Nov	Flax	(WCS)	\$20 1/2	32400					

SPORT

Graf builds up for one last hurrah

The former world No 1 has won 21 Grand Slam titles but is still obsessed with Wimbledon.
By Guy Hodgson

YOU CAN find symbolism in almost anything, journalists quicker than most, and when Steffi Graf removed her knee support five games into her latest comeback someone retorted: "Bandage off shock". Was she finally shedding the doubts that have surrounded her recent history?

Probably not. The wrapping was only a precaution, the seven-times Wimbledon champion said afterwards. "Anything could happen," she added. "You never know with me."

You could say that again. The last six months have been a series of frustrated revivals. She aimed to be back for the Australian Open and was still not ready; she was due to fly to Tokyo but decided her knee needed more treatment; when she did make it to the court three months ago she strained her left hamstring playing Lindsay Davenport in the semi-finals at Indian Wells, California.

Which brings her to the unlikely setting of the DFS Classic at Edgbaston Priory, an event which, with all due respect to a splendidly run tournament, would not normally come within her compass. But, when you are desperate to play, you go where you last went as a prodigy at 15. Graf urgently requires to play at Wimbledon.

That was apparent when she was asked what ambitions could remain within a woman who with 21 Grand Slam singles titles lies only behind Margaret Court in the litany of greatness. "To play Wimbledon," she replied, not once but three times, as if repetition would make it more likely to happen.

Turning 29 on Sunday, that is the far limit of her horizon. Could she be No 1 again? "I don't even think about it." What about Court's record? The prospect was so far fetched she did not even grant it a reply. Just a raising of the eyebrows and a squeak of exasperation. "My goal is to enjoy what I'm doing," she said eventually.

Enjoy what she is doing. There have been times in recent years when that prospect seemed improbable, if not impossible, as fate has conspired to make her recent life away from the court a series of trials. Literally so as her father, Peter, has only recently been released from prison after serving a three-year sentence for tax evasion.

That would hit anyone hard, but Peter Graf was his daughter's coach and mentor in her two-brief formative years. A fierce task master he was, too, constantly pushing, demanding more and more. How much that urgency was fuelled by his



Steffi Graf finds a way of passing the time while waiting to play in the rain-affected event at Edgbaston Priory this week

Peter Jay

addiction to alcohol and prescribed drugs only he will know but the German press's nickname for him was "Papa Merciless". Even now, though, his daughter's loyalty is rock solid. "When you know what alcohol and tablets can do to a person," she said once, "it's difficult to be angry."

Forgiveness costs nothing, but

Steffi Graf has paid all right. Around a reported £10m in back taxes and legal fees as a result of her father's transgressions.

Yet through all the tribulations she seemed to find peace on the tennis court even if she sometimes found the press conferences an intrusion. In 1995 and 1996, when her father was

either in court or on remand, she won six Grand Slams (the French, the US and Wimbledon twice each). Compared to Jennifer Capriati and Mary Pierce, two would-be successors who imploded mentally thanks partly to filial obligation, her concentration, her ability to leave her problems behind, was little short of miraculous.

Yet, for a woman whose mind has always had the determination to succeed on court it is a cruel joke that her body has not been as strong. Her back, groin, legs, feet, ankles and even sinuses have crippled her at regular intervals almost from the moment she turned professional in 1982 four months after her 13th birthday. God

gave with her talent and iron will, but also took something away.

The grating, painful halt came 12 months ago when her left knee finally succumbed to the punishment it had endured since she started playing as a four-year-old. At first she was diagnosed as having an inflamed patellar but later it was discovered

she had ruptured the tendon and fractured the cartilage.

"After that kind of thing nobody can tell you what's going to happen next, whether it's going to work out," she said. "It was a big operation, mechanically they'd changed something, so I knew I'd struggle but I didn't expect it to be as severe as it has been. Yes, I had doubts whether I'd make it."

Her months of rehabilitation in Austria were enlivened by trips to Vienna to concerts and galleries, the sort of things that her success had never given time to do before. Comebacks in Hannover and Florida were cut short but at least there was hope of progress.

The process this past few weeks has been a tentative one. Graf felt she rushed her comeback at Indian Wells, suffered accordingly, and spent time in London last week working on grass before deciding to come to Birmingham, confirming her entry only last Saturday.

Even then she hid behind a veil of security provided by her coach, Heinz Gunthardt, her mother, Heidi, and three other members of her entourage. She would arrive at Edgbaston at 8am, practise for a few hours and then disappear to a city centre hotel, ready to be called out if the miserable weather relented.

When she did peep out from behind the cloak, for her first match against Renae Stubbs, she looked thinner than before. There was no padding a la Monica Seles, who went into retirement after her stabbing a slyph-like figure and came out of it pounds heavier; just the support for her knee as evidence of her recent distress.

When that was discarded it lay bare a game that had become stiff through neglect. "My forearm will always be there," she said, "but I was struggling with my serve. I have loosened up a little bit and just go for it."

"I'm doing my normal training regime even if I play matches. In fact I'm probably doing more than I normally do and with another 10 days I'll get physically stronger. I do feel I'm getting better. I need to play points, which I haven't done too much yet. That's why I decided to come here. I felt it was maybe a bit too early but I have to play some matches."

Edgbaston, where she beat Kristie Boogert 6-2, 6-4 yesterday, and Eastbourne will provide that and after that, if her body holds out, Wimbledon. Two more titles and she will equal Martina Navratilova's record of nine and still possesses - big serve, booming forehand - the definitive grass court game. It is tantalisingly close if, in all probability, unrealistic.

"For now I'm still enjoying tennis as much and I'm just as eager," she said. "But maybe I don't take things as seriously as I did at different points of my career. If you have achieved so much already it is not a must."

Oh no? Working this hard to play at Wimbledon suggests something is lurking within the German's soul. A walk-on, walk-off part at the All England Club is unlikely to be it. Maybe the doubts are clearing after all.

Henman and Rusedski revitalised in rain

BY JOHN ROBERTS
At Queen's Club

WEARING WELLIES while watching tennis is commonplace, but muffers and gloves were advisable at the Stella Artois Championships yesterday. It was cold, wet and windy and the laws were slippery, although Britain's Greg Rusedski and Tim Hen-

man coped with the conditions well enough to advance to the third round and are on course to meet in the quarter-finals. Rusedski's match was interrupted by rain for three and a quarter hours, but the No 2 seed was able to recover against France's Jerome Golmard to prevail 6-7, 6-4, 6-1. He now plays a Belgian qualifier, Laurence Tielemans.

In the opening match of the day, Henman defeated Sargis Sargsian, of Armenia, 6-3, 6-4. Plans for Henman to play Goran Ivanisevic later in the day for a place in the quarter-finals were curtailed by rain. Sargsian led Henman 5-2 in the first round of the French Open when the British No 2 retired because of a back spasm. After yesterday's

match Henman pronounced himself 100 per cent fit and "pleasantly surprised" at the level of his game. There is a deepening depression over Australia, Pat Rafter, the No 3 seed, joining his compatriot Mark Philippoussis - who was deposed as champion on Tuesday - in hanging his head in despair. After losing to Scott Draper,

a fellow Queenslander, Rafter said his confidence was as low as it has ever been. Rafter stopped short, however, of echoing Philippoussis, who has questioned the point of going on to Wimbledon. "I might not be a happy camper on the court," Rafter said, "but I'm going to bloody play. Perhaps I'll be able to turn things round in Holland next week. I

can't get much flatter, I guess." Since beating Rusedski in the US Open final last year, Rafter's desire for the sport appears to have diminished. Pete Sampras, who beat Zimbabwe's Wayne Black 6-2, 6-3, sympathised with Rafter. "When you win a Grand Slam you're a marked man. I'm sure Patrick will come through it," he said.

"For now I'm still enjoying tennis as much and I'm just as eager," she said. "But maybe I don't take things as seriously as I did at different points of my career. If you have achieved so much already it is not a must."

Cherry hue for red rose

RUGBY UNION
CHRIS HEWETT
in Rotorua

THIS TIME last year, Graham Henry was being pursued up hill and down dale by an England hierarchy who had convinced themselves that the national team needed some southern hemisphere-style planning and foresight. Henry demonstrated foresight all right; his decision to reject the Twickenham shilling in favour of life in Auckland meant that last weekend's 76-13 humiliation in Brisbane landed in Clive Woodward's lap rather than his own. Clever devils, these New Zealanders.

Tomorrow, Henry and Woodward pit their wits against each other in Hamilton, where a powerful New Zealand A side boasting lashings of All Black know-how take on another unfamiliar England outfit based on the hif-bosh forward traditions of Gloucester and the sparky, unorthodox running game currently in vogue at Sale. A good 20,000 Waikato rugger-buggers will be present and every last one of them will expect Jonah

Lomu, Norm Hewitt and company to win by 40.

"England will feel that the worst is behind them, that they can only improve on their performance against the Wallabies," said a cagey Henry yesterday. But then, Rod Macqueen, the Australia coach, was equally cautious before watching his side break virtually every record under the southern sun. Henry knows that a simple victory will not satisfy a New Zealand public that now takes for granted the ritual slaughter of stronger opponents than these.

There are long odds against England winning any of their five games in All Black country and the tourists' inherent fragility was underlined again yesterday when they proved themselves unable to complete a straightforward training run without shedding a prop. Duncan Bell, the young loose-head from Sale, withdrew with a shoulder injury sustained in a heavyweight collision with Steve Ojomoh, the revitalised Gloucester No 8, and was replaced by another Cherry and White tribesman, Tony Windo.

Whether the preponderance of Gloucester forwards will inspire a more physical, not to say downright mean, approach from the England pack remains to be seen, but Phil Greening, the lavishly gifted young hooker with a penchant for open-field running, was in spirited mood as he weighed up the prospects yesterday. "We complement each other extremely well and we see this as an opportunity to restore some pride," he said.

"I'm looking forward to tangling with Hewitt, because it's only by playing against men of his standing that you find out whether or not you have what it takes. It's just a shame that Sean Fitzpatrick has bottled out. I'd have liked a go at him, too."

Bold words indeed. But England will need some swagger, some vim and vigour, if they are to survive the second leg of what has all the makings of a desperate tour. The New Zealand A fixture, followed by the game with the New Zealand Academy at Invercargill on Tuesday, have long been regarded as the only bright spots in the itinerary from hell and two defeats will leave Woodward's squad a long way up the Waikato River without a paddle.

"We've said enough about Brisbane, the whole squad felt the pain of what happened, we were all devastated and the only way to look at things now is to treat this match as a win-or-bust job," said Josh Lewsey, a super-confident if disaffected outside-half from Bristol. "If you'd watched us train this week, you'd know how much work we've put in on defence. It's been hitting, hitting, hitting, from first minute to last. We'll tackle tomorrow, definitely."

Lewsey, a physiology student at Bristol University, was due to receive the results of his finals today; indeed, he completed his examinations in a Brisbane hotel room last week. Whatever the outcome of the 21-year-old's academic labours, a fully-fledged All Black like Lee Steenson, the New Zealand A stand-off, is likely to present him with his most demanding test of the summer so far. In the light of Jonny Wilkinson's problems in Brisbane last week, a "pass" for Lewsey tomorrow would make Woodward and England a whole lot happier.

Sims of The Shed mans England's roughhouse

KINGSHOLM REMAINS one of the great traditional nurseries of English rugby but the delicate wallflower and the shrinking violet are not to be found among its specialities. They tend to prefer the hardy annual down Gloucester way and tomorrow, Clive Woodward's embattled red rose party will be looking to some spiky, thorny West Country specimens to offer some resistance to the threatening silver ferns of a New Zealand A side capable of cutting through opposition defences like 15 high-powered hedgecutters.

In short, Woodward has gone for the blood and guts approach up front. More than half of the pack scheduled to take the field in Hamilton tomorrow are graduates of the Gloucester school of no-nonsense, clenched-fist rugby; Tony Windo and Phil Greening play in the front row, Rob Fidler and Dave Sims pair up in the engine room and Steve Ojomoh has his hand on the tiller at No 8. There may not have been much fight from their tour colleagues in Brisbane last weekend but the hardened cognoscenti of the Waikato confidently expect this bunch to go the full 12 rounds.

All five consider themselves five candidates for next week's Test with New Zealand in Dunedin but for Sims, regarded as the senior citizen of the quintet although Windo is seven months older, tomorrow's match has a now or never look

Gloucester's second row and four colleagues will give the tourists an edge tomorrow. By Chris Hewett

to it. Uncapped at 28 despite almost a decade of unstinting service at Kingsholm, he has not been this close to a Test appearance since he last visited All Black country with England 16 years ago. A good one against Blair Larsen and Norm Maxwell will put him firmly in the frame for a call-up.

"Frustratingly, the second row game started to move away from me around the time of that '92 tour," he said in Rotorua yesterday. "The fashion was for seriously tall locks and with the Martin Bayfield of this world measuring 6ft 5in and more, my 6ft 7in was suddenly seen as no

more than average. By the time the line-out laws came full circle and allowed me to become more competitive, Martin Johnson and company had their feet well under the table. "But I'm in with a shot now, aren't I? The whole game has changed over the last couple of years and there is much more onus on the scrumgame, which suits anyone with a bit of Gloucester in him. And all this stuff about line-outs being a no contest doesn't really wash with me. We contest the bloody things down our way. I can tell you."

Those who know a thing or two about rugged, hairy-arsed

Gloucester "dogs" envy Sims his pedigree. Born in the city, educated at the local Churchdown School and a forthright product of the Longlevens rugby academy, he is the grandson of Tom Price, a Cherry and White prop who won six caps for England in the 1940s. Interestingly enough, no fewer than 16 of Gloucester's 23 post-war internationals have been forwards and Price was the first of them.

"I'll be captaining Gloucester again next year and I can't tell you how proud I am to see so many of us on this trip. Phil Vickery and Scott Benton were in a pretty emotional state when they were picked for the Test side in Brisbane last weekend and we were all emotional with him. It's a terrific honour for the club; I can remember the excitement when Malcolm Freedy, Steve Mills and Phil Blakeway made up an all-Gloucester front row against the Springboks back in 1984 and although England lost pretty badly that day you can't take the caps away from them."

"It's up to all of us to make a case, stake a claim. To do that, we'll all have to be right up there; it's been said before, but there really are no comfortable matches in New Zealand, just degrees of hardness. When I was here last I learned a huge amount about pace and support, about the dynamism of their rugby from one to 15. Nothing has changed. You either face the challenge or you disappear."



Dave Sims limbers up for England yesterday. Allsport

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.			
Draw date: 10/6/98. The winning numbers: 2, 9, 25, 28, 33, 46. Bonus number: 21.			
Total Sales: £28,527,482. Prize Fund: £12,837,367 (45% of ticket sales).			
CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	1	£4,117,415	£4,117,415
Match 5 plus bonus ball	5	£263,379	£1,266,895
Match 5	424	£1,867	£791,608
Match 4	25,291	£88	£2,139,788
Match 3	491,926	£10	£4,919,260
TOTALS	517,647		£12,834,966

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Breakage (prizes rounded down to nearest £1): £22,401.

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Calderwood shines as Brazil do just enough

ON WEDNESDAY I predicted a 2-0 win for Brazil, with the world champions doing just enough to give themselves a little cushion. I was sure they would not extend themselves any further than necessary, because they expect six more games over the next month.

In the end, Scotland did manage to score a goal and in the excitement of the event the defeat seemed very harsh. The Scots passed well after a very shaky start indeed. Inexcusable and uncharacteristic defending from a routine near-post corner rattled their confidence. Also the fact that the Scots were playing an adapted system was adding to the general confusion.

It took 20 minutes and a little tinkering with the tactics for the nervous Scots to look more comfortable and get back their more familiar passing game. They were fortunate



PAT NEVIN

that the Brazilians hadn't scored from their three or four good chances in this period.

They then began to pass well and made a few chances. Overall, there were 11 Scottish attempts on goal with six on target, a good return against top class opposition. It was a brave decision by Craig Brown to field three recognised forwards in

Darren Jackson, Gordon Durie and Kevin Gallacher, but it necessitated the departure from the more familiar 3-5-2 formation.

It took the intervention after 20 minutes by Colin Hendry to drag Paul Lambert back into the hole in front of the defence before the balance was restored. Scotland then grew in confidence with Gallacher continuing to show why he is so highly rated in England and Durie producing a typically fine performance of strength and bravery.

The Brazilians didn't seem to care much that the Scots were slowly getting back into the game. A mind-set had infiltrated the Brazilian team, who believed the game was already won. I watched them train the day before and in that short session they looked a keener and more lively group of players. By the time the Scots snatched a deserved

equaliser, the Brazilians had lost control of the game.

The challenge on Gallacher which led to the penalty was sloppy and totally unnecessary. A more concentrated defender would not have been so careless. This summed up the lax Brazilian attitude. John Collins made his last meaningful contribution to the game by striking home the penalty. His fading influence in the second half put paid to any real chance of Craig Brown's men going on to win the game. The Monaco midfielder is Scotland's most complete footballer at the moment and any success this month will depend on him producing his best work over 90 minutes.

After the game, Craig Brown gave a fairly downbeat reflection of the team performance to the press. He will have taken a far more positive line back in the dressing-room.

Especially when addressing his central defensive group of Colin Calderwood, Tom Boyd and Colin Hendry. Calderwood, in particular, scarcely put a foot wrong, even though he, like the other two, were outrageously tricked on several occasions by the peerless Ronaldo. However, there is no shame in that because no defender in the world can stop the 21-year-old, twice World Player of the Year, when he is in full flow. Calderwood can be proud that Ronaldo failed to score in an international game, a very unusual occurrence. The Spurs defender can count on a starting place against Norway.

Where Scotland were regularly troubled was down the left flank. Christian Dailly attacked promisingly but couldn't get back quick enough to stop the threat from the extremely fit Cafu. It would be simple to blame the young Derby de-

fender, especially as the winning goal came from precisely that area, but it may be the case that Brown asked him to play as far forward as possible, leaving gaps for the Roma defender to gallop into. Cafu was magnificent and, in retrospect, it may well have been wiser to play a specialist wing-back against him as opposed to a converted centre-back. Celtic's Tosh McKinlay could find himself starting against Norway and the versatile Daily's World Cup may continue in another position.

Scotland's problem in progressing may be the same as it ever was. When they are faced by a truly world-class player on his game they aren't capable of snuffing him out for a whole 90 minutes. Happily, Norway and Morocco do not have this type of individual, so there is still a very good chance of progressing if they beat Egil Olsen's team on Tuesday.

The Brazilians, despite their victory, were generally disappointing. On this evidence, only Ronaldo, Cafu and Dunga performed sporadically to the expected standard. They rarely looked like a team, rather a group of disparate, if very talented, individuals. If you just look at this performance, it would seem that they are well short of the necessary qualities to retain the World Cup, but I think this showing was deceptive. They didn't stretch themselves beyond what was necessary. Each time they got the lead they noticeably took the foot off the gas.

In the end, they didn't need a two-goal cushion to feel comfortable against Scotland's finest, one goal was enough. It may come to pass that Scotland's single goal against Brazil could prove very important if the group, as many expect, is finally decided on goal difference.



Striker Alan Shearer, the England captain, takes centre stage during training at the squad's base near La Baule yesterday

David Ashdown

Scotland's brave face on defeat

Brown considers a change of personnel after draw between Group A opponents tempers loss to Brazil. By Phil Shaw

AFTER ALL the razzmatazz surrounding their reverse against Brazil, Scotland were back at their rural retreat near Avignon yesterday. The area is renowned as the birthplace of Nostradamus, but Craig Brown was reluctant to adopt the mantle of a seer in Provence by predicting the outcome of Group A.

There was, the Scotland manager surmised in the aftermath of their 2-1 defeat by the world champions and the 2-2 draw between Morocco and Norway, everything to play for. While some critics had exaggerated the significance of the opening match, Brown always had the bigger picture in mind.

"We don't need to be too far after the Brazil game," he said. "All the emphasis has always been on qualifying (for the second phase) rather than on a single match. Just as beating them wouldn't have guaranteed that, so losing doesn't affect our approach either. We were always looking to win the other games."

"Because of that, there's no damage to morale. I was also encouraged by the defensive frailty which Morocco and Norway showed."

The Norwegians, heavily dependent on English-based players, are the Scots' next opponents on Tuesday in Bordeaux. When they were racking up big victories in the warm-up games, Brown was dubious as to whether they would be able to maintain their high-intensity style in the finals, and he was at least partially vindicated by the Moroccans.

Brown said: "Norway have a distinctive style and we have to adapt to that, even though the Moroccan goalkeeper was kind to them. It's a match that will require tactics and perhaps different personnel. A top country like Brazil don't need to change their way of playing from one game to another, whereas we have to occasionally."

"Morocco played them at their own game at times with the long ball. Maybe we'll have to be more direct, too."

Since there is no obvious target man in the Duncan Ferguson mould, any changes are likely to centre around giving the side a more combative core. Billy McKinlay, a late substitute against Brazil, would be a suitable candidate.

It is a game Scotland dare not lose, given the likelihood of a Brazil victory over Morocco. "We don't want a situation where Brazil can take their foot off the pedal in their last game (against Norway)," Brown

added. "We need to win to keep up the pressure."

But for the own-goal misfortune that befell Tom Boyd at St Denis, Scotland might have been sitting pretty. Back home, the particularly unsuccessful Cowdenbeath rejoice in the ironic nickname of the Blue Brazil and it was to the immense credit of Brown's team - and his tactics - that there was a spell in the second half when the World Cup holders were made to resemble the Yellow Cowdenbeath.

It could not last, but there was an almost tangible mood of satisfaction in the Scottish camp yesterday about the way they had acquitted themselves. The feeling extended to the 5,000-strong Tartan Army, some of whom were still milling around outside the stadium in driving rain three hours after the final whistle.

Inside the ground bricklayers from Brechin and asphaltpavers from Airdrie got to shake their beer bellies at scantily clad Brazilian beauties as they danced to the drum. But they also surprised French spectators by joining in lustily on La Marseillaise. And, proving that the art of improvising new football songs is not dead, the Scottish stand rocked in celebration of David Neary's superlative strike against Brazil 16 years ago.

"Alouette, Neary burst the netta," they chorused. The words will have to be updated in honour of the John Collins penalty which gave Scotland such hope, yet in the meantime they must uncover similar reserves of wit and invention in order to advance ahead of Norway and Morocco.

Brazil, meanwhile, still have work to do before they can live up to the legend on their national flag: "Order and progress." There was more than one misunderstanding between the goalkeeper, Taffarel, and his defenders.

Moreover, the manner in which they had to concede the midfield to Collins and Paul Lambert for 20 minutes after half-time made nonsense of yesterday's headline in L'Equipe: "Dunga controls tout".

Worryingly for Mario Zagallo, Bebeto was an ineffectual foil for Ronaldo in attack. There were still moments when the latter played as if re-enacting his "airport" advert, but the Scots were largely able to crowd him out. Pelé described Ronaldo as "Brazil's Beethoven". Zagallo's concern must now be to find a second fiddle who can stay in tune with the maestro.

Owen courts a quick start

ON THE wall behind Michael Owen, as he sat talking in England's temporary press centre, was a huge poster of Teddy Sheringham celebrating an international goal. The 18 year old did not look back once. He did not need to: it is now Sheringham, 14 years and 28 caps his senior, who is looking over his shoulder.

On Tuesday Owen played up front with Alan Shearer in England's behind-closed-doors friendly with Caen. A sign of things to come? Or part of the errant Sheringham's punishment? Either way that Owen is seen as a genuine contender to break up the established and successful Shearer and Sheringham partnership underlines his dramatic rise.

This time last year, while England were winning Le Tournoi in France, Owen was with the Under-20 side in Malaysia, a single league appearance to his name. "Don't tell the coaches as it was on pretty late but we sat up and watched the matches," remembered Owen yesterday. Now he is hoping to start England's first World Cup match since Italia 90, when he was 10 years old, against Tunisia on Monday.

England's striking prodigy is prepared to line up beside Alan Shearer at apex of three lions' attack. By Glenn Moore

"I want to start, I feel I'm ready to start, but I'm not confident of doing so," he said. "Teddy and Alan have been very successful together for England and they are the favourites. But no country will finish with the team it begins with so it is not just down to who starts."

Shearer and Sheringham look a better balanced partnership than Shearer and Owen, not least because the team do not get so stretched out, but the Liverpool forward sees no reason why he and Shearer should not forge a good partnership.

"Alan and I can certainly play together. We are different: he's a more physical presence than me. At the start of the season a lot of people were saying I couldn't play with Robbie Fowler. You can make any partnership work. Once you play with someone you get to know their runs and whatever. All you need is one game and if you're intelligent

you quickly pick up what they do. Then you keep learning, you learn from every game."

"It worked fine in Caen. I played well. Although I didn't score I was through on a one-on-one and got dragged back. It would have been a clear penalty in the World Cup and a sending off but because it was a friendly they didn't bother."

He may not be sure of starting but Owen is confident of scoring if he does. "I always expect to score, you've got to," he said. "You have to think you can cause anyone in the world problems."

After watching Scotland in action on Wednesday that includes Brazil. "Ronaldo showed flashes of brilliance but the Scots did well," said Owen. "No one is going to be that fearful of Brazil now, they have a lot of individual talent, especially going forward, but looked a bit suspect at the back. The Scots got a lot of chances."

"I always look at a player's weaknesses rather than his strengths. You try to see where you can hurt them most. They play two wing-backs at full-back (Cafu and Roberto Carlos). They are both great going forward but you have to question them going back towards their own goal."

In print Owen's confidence can appear big-headed but in the flesh the words are delivered in matter-of-fact fashion. He remains apparently unaffected by the attention and praise. A few minutes earlier Glenn Hoddle had compared him to Ronaldo in the way he turns players. Was this a comparison too far? "It's always nice to be compared like that, it's great to hear. There are similarities as we like to run at players with the ball but I have a lot to do to get to his standard. Hopefully one day I'll be something like that."

"His temperament is above his years," Hoddle had also said. "He lacks experience but the whole squad lacks World Cup experience. He can cause problems whether he starts or comes on as a substitute. He adds a different dimension with his pace."

"He has two great assets for a striker. He has pace with and without the ball, and he has movement. I worked with a lot of strikers who had electric pace but not known when to use it - Michael does."

The other quality Owen has is desire. Asked if there was anything he could not do he also plays golf off eight, the best handicap in the squad) he replied that his family thought he was a bad loser.

"To me that's a quality," he added. "I hate losing at anything. Alan Shearer is the same."

So when was the last time he was hurt by defeat?

"About an hour ago when Rio Ferdinand beat me in the driving machine."

That Ferdinand is banned from driving the real thing for his drink-driving offence presumably made it even worse. "He's practising for when he gets his licence back," said Owen with a grin.

Today he is competing with Sheringham again, on the golf course. Sheringham, naturally, partners Shearer and, in La Manga, they beat Owen and Paul Scholes.

"We're out for revenge," said Owen.

Tartan Army's unbridled joy baffles Paris

IT IS 4.30 am. A grey, chilly dawn. It is raining. You might, at this stage of the game, expect Scottish supporters to be echoing the poet Paul Verlaine: "It is raining in my heart as it rains on the city." But no. In their hearts there are no clouds and the sun is shining. Through the night, from the Balzar, in the Rue des Ecoles, to the Bonaparte, off the Boulevard St-Germain, at the Irish Pub in the Rue St-André des Arts, the Scots have been singing and carousing and celebrating through the night.

"You'd think they'd just won the World Cup," said my incredulous friend, Virginie.

This is the mystery that baffled Parisians have been trying to fathom out in the wake of the opening match: what makes the Scots so happy?

ANDY MARTIN
AT LARGE IN FRANCE



What is their secret? Every word the French apply to the Scots - *joyeux, gaillard et fêlard* - tips the hat to their high spirits. Even the Brazilians have been amazed at this carnival-like attitude and have been going about cheering "Viva la Scotland!" Here is a selection of theories, hypotheses, and groundless speculation on this phenomenon currently on offer in bars and cafes around the capital.

1. The Scots are not that happy. It's just that the Parisians are so chronically gloomy, angst-ridden and neurotic that the Scots are bound to appear wildly ecstatic by comparison. Admittedly, that was my idea. "That is an insupportable slur on Paris," said Virginie. "Any-

way, what's wrong with being depressed?" She pointed out, as if to prove her case, that, according to recent statistics, violence against women always goes up during major sporting contests in France.

2. The Scottish view, put to me immediately after the match: "We scored two, didn't we? If we can only work out how to get the ball in the opponents' net every time, there'll be no stopping us."

3. Few Scots actually noticed the result. Inebriation certainly helped. I was on the square in front of the Hotel de Ville, scene of revolutionary mayhem in the past, and now the site of a giant screen for the great unticketed. So I can testify that, by the time the match kicked off at 5.30 local time, a considerable number of supposed "spectators", having been cele-

brating all day, were incapable of spectating, or anything else. They had been propped up against statues and lampposts by kindly comrades, then tended to come round after the match was over, refreshed and raring to go for another round of festivities.

4. Shades of William Wallace. It was a glorious defeat. They fought bravely. The Brazilians are technically superior in terms of sheer firepower, but the Scots are a match for them in spirit, especially before and after the match.

5. More cynical: "The aspiration levels of the Scots were low in the first place. They'd be happy with anything this side of outright massacre."

6. Deep: "It's a clear case of the victim identifying with the victor," observed my psychologist friend

Denis - also responsible for observation No 5 - as he watched Scots parading about in Brazilian shirts. "It's an established psychological pattern. Although I wouldn't say it to a Scotsman."

7. The half-French half-Scottish view: "The Scots are the Brazilians of Britain. They know how to have a good time." I only know one man who is half-French and half-Scottish, so I'm not sure if this would apply across what must be a fairly small board. There was no doubt where Philippe's sympathies lay yesterday, but he will be torn if it ever comes to a showdown between Scotland and France.

Meanwhile, his dedication to the game must be put in doubt in any case, since he has taken to hanging out in those bars which have explicitly prohibited screen-

ing any matches. Why? "Are you stupid? Because that's where all the women will be."

8. Le Monde (which has come round to football in a big way so that it heaps scorn on anyone who dares to heap scorn on it): "It's a political thing. The Scots are not here to watch the football, they are here to assert their independence from England. The Tartan Army (a phrase which even the French have picked up and taken to their hearts) is nothing other than the Scottish national abroad. And France is their natural ally (and business partner) in the struggle with the common enemy."

9. Taxi driver: "Mais, ils ne font que ça!" Translation: the Scots are here to party come what may. The taxi driver automatically assumed I was the worse for drink, too.

Olympic spirit not enough for Danes

After a big year with Celtic, Marc Rieper is determined to shine on the ultimate stage with Denmark. By Phil Shaw

DENMARK'S sports photo of the year once captured Marc Rieper and Peter Schmeichel in a moment of mutual antagonism during a match. Foreheads pressed together and faces contorted with rage, they were not enquiring after each other's health. Just as well, reflects the towering defender, that they were on the same side that day.

Today's match against Saudi Arabia finds Rieper and his goalkeeper a picture of unity, harnessing those fierce competitive instincts in their country's cause. As the Celtic and former West Ham player puts it: "The old Olympic spirit, being happy just to take part, is no longer good enough for us Danes."

Following the departure from Scotland of both his compatriot, Brian Laudrup, and Paul Gascoigne, the vastly experienced Rieper goes into the finals as arguably the Scottish game's top player. With his 30th birthday having fallen five days before France 98 began, it may be now or never for him to make a significant impact on a less parochial stage.

That is not to imply that he is an international under-achiever. Denmark's victory in Scotland in March brought his 50th cap, 31 of which came in consecutive matches, a Danish record. However, Rieper was too young to be involved in their previous appearance in the finals, in Mexico 12 years ago, and did not make the squad which became European champions in 1992.

That was a setback, certainly, yet Rieper's background is not the kind to lead him to confuse disappointment with disaster. Although he began playing at the age of five for his home-town club, Aarhus, he was "never desperate" to follow his father into a playing career - "I was into everything - athletics, basketball for the national team - but I carried on playing for the Aarhus youth teams and eventually the football thing clicked into place."

Even after he made his choice, he went to university where he majored in sociology. Later he worked as an estate agent ("Not the dodgy profession it is here," he assures me) while stopping strikers at week-

ends. "The Danish system gives young players a balanced perspective on life. If they fail at football, it's not the end of the world. It has also given me a balanced perspective on things and helped me cope with the pressures of the British game, which can be intense."

Rieper first played for Denmark in 1990. A move to Brøndby, the club where Schmeichel and the brothers Laudrup came to prominence, ought to have confirmed his place in the national set-up. Instead he fell out of form and favour. "The training was full-time, which I found very, very hard. I didn't perform well, and then I was asked to fill in up front. I was happy to do it but it isn't my position."

The downturn in Rieper's fortunes proved ill-timed indeed. On the eve of 1992 European Championships, Yugoslavia were expelled from the tournament and Denmark invited to replace them. "The boys were complaining that they wouldn't get their summer holidays! But it turned out to be the best experience of their lives," Rieper says. "Me? I stayed at home and watched it on TV. It was an emotional and exciting time to be Danish. There was great pride in what a little country without great resources can achieve."

The suspicion remains that it was a glorious one-off. After all, the seemingly more talented "Danish Dynamite" side of 1986 imploded in the second round of the World Cup. "We've got to be realistic and accept that Denmark aren't going to win championships regularly," Rieper says. "We've got around 30 players that could possibly perform at this level. Italy, Germany and England may have 100. But I'll be surprised if we slip up in the first phase."

They ought to go through from a group also containing South Africa and France, whom Rieper ranks as favourites along with Brazil, Italy and Germany. Not England or Scotland? "No," he replies, eschewing the platitudes endemic in his profession. "People have very high expectations of England in particular, but I believe they're too high. Look at Manchester United in the European Cup. They are one of the best



Marc Rieper: 'I'll be surprised if we slip up in the first phase'

Empics

teams in Europe, but English sides always peak too soon, in the autumn and Christmas."

He knows about the British game, having had "three good years" with West Ham before August's £1.5m transfer to Celtic. His partnership with Alan Stubbs was a key factor in ending Rangers' rule, but Rieper's satisfaction with the way the move has worked out extends beyond the addition to his medal collection.

As one who enjoys travelling and, like Jürgen Klinsmann, used to go on backpacking holidays, he likes the idea of sampling different cultures. He had heard "a lot of negative things" about Glasgow but admits to being "pleasantly surprised".

Language has not been a barrier, either in the international Celtic dressing-room or in Scotland at large. Anyway, Rieper has an interpreter. "My daughter couldn't speak Danish when she started nursery. Now she's picking up Scottish phrases and mixing it all up."

And the Glaswegian cuisine? "I would never eat haggis if you paid me," he says, simultaneously laughing and squirming. Being able to socialise with Brian Laudrup, when he was across the city at Rangers, enabled Rieper to keep in touch with his roots. Now the Old Firm rivals, together with Schmeichel and Michael Laudrup, represent the spine of the Danish side in France.

While pundits point to the Laudrups as the players who could make the difference, Rieper is convinced that Schmeichel is the one player they could not afford to lose. "Peter's the best keeper in the world. The defender who wouldn't want him behind him is a fool."

That did not, of course, stop them falling out so photographically. "It was against Portugal in a European Championship qualifying game. Two minutes from time, this ball came into our box and I could have got it away easily. Then Peter charged out and got me, not the ball."

Yes, but what were you saying to each other? "It's not nice," Rieper explains. "You couldn't print it."



DIARY

THE WORLDWIDE appeal of the Premiership is underlined again by statistics revealing more English-based players - 75 - on show at the World Cup than from any other country. Spain and Italy are next best with 70, and it was those two countries who led the way in America four years ago with 46 and 45 respectively. The English-based 75 are distributed among the competing nations as follows: England 22, Norway 11, Scotland 8, Jamaica 7, Netherlands 5, Denmark 4, France 4, South Africa 3, Croatia 2, Romania 2, United States 2, Austria 1, Colombia 1, Germany 1, Italy 1, Nigeria 1. Chelsea have eight players at the World Cup (with eight different countries) as have Manchester United and Tottenham.

BIG WORLD Cup, small world. When the early-morning Paris to Marseilles express broke down yesterday in the middle of nowhere (Macon Loche, actually), the hundreds of South Africa supporters bound for the match with France were oblivious to the presence on the platform of two Scots with a place in FA Cup final history. For among those waiting for a replacement train were Charlie Cooke, a 1970 winner with Chelsea who is currently coaching in the United States, and Gordon Smith, doubtless heading south to escape the 'And Smith must score' notoriety of Brighton's 1983 defeat by Manchester United.

FILIP DE WILDE is keeping a low profile in the Belgian squad after

tricking his team-mates into radical Ronaldo haircuts. "Hopefully I'm a better goalkeeper than a hairdresser," said De Wilde, who promised the players a three-millimetre crewcut and then found he had, as misjudged in some cases, forcing his victims to hide their baldness underneath caps.

EVEN THOSE countries not taking part in France have been overtaken by World Cup fervour. In Vietnam, soldiers and fishermen on Bach Long Vi island are saving precious diesel for generators to avert the threat of power cuts, while the Hanoi Post and Telecommunications Department is providing free wake-up calls for the duration of the competition instead of the normal cost of 1,000 dong (five pence). In Bangladesh, where the threat of reduced power is a constant worry, nearly 2,000 people attacked and ransacked the power station in the coastal Cox's Bazar district when the lights went out in the middle of Wednesday's opening game.

IT MAY be Jamaica's first World Cup but they are ahead of the game in terms of gleaming information on their opponents. A friend of coach Rene Simoes has perfected some statistical software which can dissect their rivals' game. "You can ask the computer questions," explained Simoes, "such as who generally passes to Croatia's striker Davor Suker? It tells you which players give him the ball and from which direction."

TREVOR HAYLETT and PHIL SHAW

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"I accept it in order not to stir up any trouble, although, deep down, I find it unjust."
Frank Leboeuf on being a substitute for France.
"If we are stupid enough to think that the Saudis have problems playing in the rain, then we are stupid."
Denmark's Bo Johansson, on his team's opponents today.
"If we don't get tickets soon, we're going to take the tour co-ordinator hostage. We will not kill him."
Masami Tachi, a 34-year-old Japanese housewife who has travelled to France to find her pre-paid ticket does not exist.
"If anyone tries to cause trouble for us now, they have a problem - with me. Do you know what I'm saying?"
Glenn Hoddle's threat to potential trouble-makers.

A verbal battle in a war of words

IT IS, to be fair, only early doors as yet, but already my grasp of the English language has begun to be affected by the cathode-ray emissions from France 98.

I'm disappointed with that but not, as yet, gutted. If truth is the first casualty of war then words are the first to be crocked in the World Cup. To the phrases above we can now add "dodge-pod", Alan Hansen's description of the Brazilian goalkeeper Taffarel after Wednesday's opening match. Later, Ron Atkinson, the Dr Johnson of football's lexicography, chipped in with a new one that will also stick, "the ugly ball", used to describe the source of Norway's two equalisers against Morocco.

This is also the month when the adverb will be horribly abused, stripped of its "ly" ending, which is then given a free transfer to players' surnames. Glenn Hoddle, in a live link-up with Des Lynam from England's base in Brittany told us

STAN HEY
VIEW FROM THE
ARMCHAIR



that "things were going excellent". And of course there is permanent leave of absence for the "g"s in Trevor Brook's Essex locations.

This emphasis on the verbals would not have come about had the visuals been more interesting. The first day's football was much more open and much less brutal than we have been led to expect, and certainly outstandingly conducted by the two match referees despite the predictions of chaos. But its entertainment value was in contrast to the surrounding broadcasts from BBC and ITV,

both of which suggested that a lot of money had been spent to no great effect.

The warning bells had rung early, with the BBC's tournament preview which featured Des Lynam's expensive use of quote, and then joining Ginola, Lineker and Hansen at a marina in the south of France to show off their designer sunglasses. It may just be down to the Judith Chalmers factor, in which, as a viewer, you become murderously inclined to those being highly paid to travel in warm climates on your behalf.

But leaving that aside, my first instinct is that the BBC is throwing its sport budget at this World Cup tournament in a last hurrah, knowing that BSkyB and the German rights-owners will almost certainly team up to get the next.

Take the opening credits - possibly influenced by an infamous BBC Management weekend at the luxurious Lackham Park in Wiltshire - which depict a French brasserie where images of World Cup moments appear, floating in the wine bottles and glasses. This almost certainly nails down the precise source of the design inspiration - a five hour lunch.

With this comes an expensive wall of mournful choral music, Faure's "Gloza Solemnis", but what really makes the eyes water is the BBC's World Cup studio. In what is clearly one of Mohammed Al Fayed's Parisian penthouses, Des and friends sprawled in front of a spectacular skyline and while they talked we could watch the

bad weather rolling in behind the Eiffel Tower. The French windows of Lynam Park's balcony were open early for the pre-match festivities, allowing the panel to discard their ties and, in Jimmy Hill's case, even his socks. Ginola is clearly having an influence already.

But events at the stadium later forced a rethink, with the windows being firmly shut by full-time. The opening ceremony had suggested three security lapses - firstly that several hundred deranged escapees from EuroDisney had hijacked the proceedings, or that terrorists had managed to drop a ton of LSD into the Paris water supply. There was also the obvious threat of Ally McCoist making his way back to the penthouse from the stadium and causing a scene. McCoist, sporting a lager top hairdye and a tartan suit, may have been expunging his grief at being excluded from the Scottish squad.

Matters were a little calmer

on ITV, where their budget has been underwritten to the tune of £3m by Vauxhall in return for irritating promotional films. The nation should begin a whip round now to buy out the car company and save our sanity. It's either that or getting Big Ron to do it for just £2m.

On the day, Ron was the star performer. Apart from his rich vernacular, something else came down the wires too - a genuine passion for watching football which didn't emerge in the BBC's commentary from Davies and Brookings. Ron was also dignified enough to soldier on after Bob Wilson had tactlessly revealed at half-time that a French coach had got his old job at Sheffield Wednesday. And he was diplomatic itself when he declined to correct Brian Moore's query about the deployment of a Moroccan substitute's Christian name on his shirt - "not bad for country with a 98.7 per cent Sunni Muslim population, Brian", as Ron could have said, but didn't.

"Morocco played well. For the first time since 1986 we can say we are proud of our team. What reward, what fine goals. Norway were lucky. They're the ones who are thanking God for coming out of the game with a point. I was worried beforehand, but now we can beat anybody - including Brazil." A fan's reaction to Wednesday's 2-2 draw against Norway from the Morocco Online Internet message board. (www.maroc.net)

"Our team looked half asleep." "Dagbladet", Norwegian newspaper.

THE GLOBAL GAME

WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"I predict a European final. The champions could be France, England, Germany, Italy or Spain. I don't know which or why. I just have the feeling. There are many teams who want to beat Brazil." Javier Clemente, the Spain coach, on Spanish television.

"Not even the torrential downpour which began on the final whistle and continued long into the Parisian night could dampen Scottish spirits or their desire to party until dawn. With every drink, the defeat became easier to handle and, by the end of the night, the

Brazilians were downright lucky to win. Another moral victory." Lawrence Donegan, writer for "The Scotsman".

"Like most Americans in Paris this week, Allen and Denise Hughes of Plano, Texas, admitted they had booked their family vacation several months ago, without realising they'd be in town during the tournament. 'We're here to avoid the World Cup,' Denise admitted at the base of the Eiffel Tower." USA Today.

Compiled by Rupert Metcalf and Elizabeth Nas

IN FRANCE WITHOUT A TICKET

Nicholas Haring's daily quest to get into a World Cup match: Day Two

It's just like being outside Anfield, said a friend, as we sought seats at Bordeaux's Stade Lesieur for Italy against Chile yesterday. There were that many English tourists, especially Scousers, trying to do some business. Eventually I did a

deal with one of them, swapping a 250fr ticket I had bought for 325fr for the Italy against Cameroon game in Montpellier next Wednesday for a 145fr category ticket. Other tourists dropped their prices sharply from 1,000 to 1,500fr a ticket to 500 as kick-off approached. But now I am left wondering. How do I get into Italy against Cameroon next week?

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Marseilles provides a special stage tonight for French flair to turn snipers into supporters

Desailly out to turn patience into passion

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Clairefontaine

MARCEL DESAILLY is a comfortable person, usually. Everything about him, on and off the football field, is graceful, relaxed, reassuring, thoughtful. At 29, he has the charisma and the film-star looks of a Carl Lewis or a young Muhammad Ali. For six years, with Marseilles, Milan and France, he has been one of the world's outstanding central defenders.

Desailly was as graceful as ever when I met him, but not comfortable — he admitted to being "gène" and "space" (troubled and irritated) by the relentless criticism of the French team in the French press. "We are professionals. We are not kids out of college. Professionals need competition. You have to remember that for two years the French team has played only friendly games. It's true that we have not played particularly well. We have constantly had to say to the French public: 'Wait and see, wait and see. It will be different when the World Cup comes.' All I can say to you today is [he shrugs his shoulders]... wait and see."

This is a huge day for all the French players, their first World Cup game in the French World Cup, in Group C, against South Africa. If they fail again, as a team, to perform to their individual reputations, they can no longer hide from the frequent scorn of the French press, and the almost fatalistic disappointment of the French public.

It is an especially big week for Marcel Desailly. He returns today to the Stade Velodrome in Marseilles, the stadium where he made his reputation, and the city in which he was brought up. On Monday, he signed a four-year contract with

Chelsea, ending a glittering career with Milan, including two years when they were undisputedly the greatest club side in the world.

I spoke to Desailly at the French team's headquarters, a château 30 miles south-west of Paris, which has been transformed (stunningly) into the Centre Technique National du Football. The players sat at tables labelled with their names, as if at a school careers convention.

A couple of days ago, when criticism reached a new peak of scorn (following a vacuous 1-0 victory over Finland), the French coach, Aimé Jacquet, threatened to eject the press from Clairefontaine. But here we all were, conducting polite interviews before writing words of puzzlement and foreboding.

L'Equipe, the great French sports daily newspaper, has been especially scathing about Jacquet's tactics and his apparent intention to play three central attackers — Youri Djorkaeff, Stéphane Guivarc'h and Christophe Dugarry — but no true wingers. This is yet another bizarre resemblance between France 98 and the English preparations for 1966. Could the taciturn, media unfriendly Jacquet be the French Alf Ramsey?

Desailly, a hugely popular figure in France, remains exempt from the criticism. The likely French back-four — Lilian Thuram, Desailly, Laurent Blanc and Bixente Lizarazu — is one of the best and most experienced in the competition. "We are happy together," said Desailly. "Especially LoLo [Laurent Blanc] and myself. It has been the same back line for two years now, since the European Championship. Defensively we are comfortable. What we have lacked is the edge of imagination, of disponibilité [availability] when going forward. But that's the kind of thing which professional players produce, can only produce in a competitive game."

"This is what wounds us about the criticism. As if, somehow, the World Cup mattered less to the players than it does to the fans or the press. I can tell you, this is what I have been waiting for. This is what all the players have been waiting for."

On his £4.5m transfer to Chelsea, Desailly was upbeat, but he did not hide a trace of sadness at leaving Milan. "With my enthusiasm, but also my tactical awareness, I think I will be in the list of the 'good foreigners' in the Premier League. I had other offers, better offers. I could have gone to Atletico Madrid or Liverpool. But I was impressed with Chelsea, that they wanted me very badly. I was impressed with their victory in the European Cup-Winners' Cup, with their ambition. I was impressed with the kind of players they have been signing, players in the 28-30 age group like me — Casiraghi, Laudrup — who are ready to play at their peak."

"I want to win the European Champions' League again [he has a 1993 medal with Marseilles and 1994 with Milan] and so why not with an English club? What I am especially looking forward to in England is the passion of the fans. I'm the kind of player who needs that."

It was Michel Platini who once said that, in France, there are no supporters, only spectators. There are two exceptions to the rule: Lens and Marseilles.

"We are all happy to be playing the first game in Marseilles," Desailly said. "Most of the team has once played, or still plays, for the club. The fans know us. We hope they are going to get behind us, and support us to the end, even if, say, it's 0-0 at half-time. We need them to be passionate but also patient."

The French fans have been patient for a long time. What they desperately want in Marseilles today is something to be passionate about.



Marcel Desailly: 'The World Cup is what I have been waiting for... what all the French players have been waiting for' Empics

Petit poised to make the most of his opportunity

BY BILL PIERCE
in Marseilles

THE ARSENAL midfielder Emmanuel Petit is poised to complete a memorable year by earning a place in the France line-up to face South Africa as the hosts kick off their World Cup challenge in Marseilles tonight.

Petit, a key figure in Arsenal's Premiership and FA Cup double triumph, is set to start in coach Aimé Jacquet's team despite, as he admits, having a lot to prove in front of his own countrymen.

Petit, in tandem with fellow Frenchman Patrick Vieira, was the scourge of opposing midfields in Arsène Wenger's all-conquering team and, the season before, was a key member of the championship-winning campaign with Monaco, the club Petit served with distinction for eight years. But when he finally packed his bags for London, Petit had fallen out of favour with the French squad following their dismal failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

Now the 27-year-old has forced his way back and is set to collect only his 19th cap. "I need to show my value for the team and the supporters and I'm impatient to do so," he said. "My first season with Arsenal must have done some good for me being brought back into the French squad."

"But my country has not played a competitive match for two years and I've only taken part in friendly games. Now it is the real thing."

"It is a very important time for all of us, the public want to know if we are good enough to be a real force. They are still not very sure about us."

It is a mark of Petit's form that he could line-up alongside the Juventus icon Zinedine Zidane and Chelsea's new signing, Marcel Desailly. In fact, France have all the necessary attributes to go far in this tournament — except perhaps a consistent striker. That is why Jacquet is ready to gamble on Stéphane Guivarc'h reproducing the goal-form that made him top scorer in the French league for the past two seasons.

The South Africans, making their World Cup debut, can be expected to adopt a siege mentality in the opener. The hosts know full well that they possess rugged defenders such as Bolton's Mark Fish and Leeds' Lucas Radebe. But Petit said: "The Finland game was a good test for us. They were ready to fight physically and technically and I think the two most dangerous teams in our World Cup group, Denmark and South Africa, will be the same."

Denmark, the surprise European champions in 1992, take on Saudi Arabia in Lens tonight in northern France with one of the worst warm-up records of any of the 32 countries in the competition. They lost at home to fellow finalists Norway and Cameroon, and were thumped 3-0 in Sweden.

Despite that, their coach Bo Johansson insists his men are perfectly prepared and everything is going to plan. However, he has refused to talk up his team's chances against a fast, fit and talented Saudi team that held England to a 0-0 draw at Wembley only last month.

"They have good technique, are quick and well-organised," said Johansson of the Saudis. "If you think they are going to sit back and defend, then you'll be surprised."

Bulgaria, semi-finalists in 1994, are preparing for a tough-tackling battle with the Latin American outsiders Paraguay in Montpellier tonight.

The game will be a showdown between two larger-than-life goalscorers with a provocative streak and much else in common, except that Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov is a striker while Paraguay's Jose Luis Chilavert plays in goal.

Like Stoichkov, Chilavert takes free-kicks and penalties and, also like the Bulgarian, he upsets opponents with his belligerent attitude. His teammates, though, are mostly unproven at the top level.

"We know that they play a very tough, if not brutal, game," Bulgaria's coach, Hristo Bonev, said of the South Americans. "We've been practising some hard tackling because we want our players to get up quicker than the Paraguayans."

Bergkamp back on the bench for Dutch

BY RUPERT METCALF

DENNIS BERGKAMP, the Arsenal striker who had looked likely to miss at least the first two of the Netherlands' fixtures at France 98, has been passed fit and could play in their opener against Belgium at St Denis tomorrow.

The 29-year-old has recovered from the hamstring problem which has been affecting him for weeks. However, he may have to settle for a place on the bench. "It's going very well at the moment," he said. "I don't think I can play a full game yet, though. Maybe I could

come on in the second half. Belgium is probably too early for me."

The news was not so good, though, for the defender Frank de Boer, who managed only light training after twisting his left ankle on Monday.

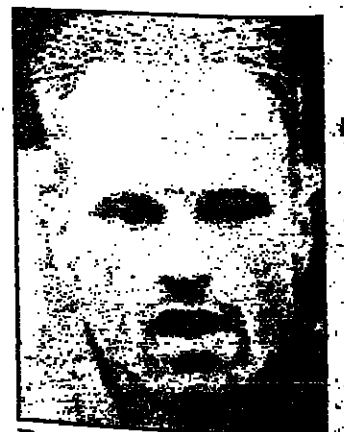
Belgium's coach, Georges Leekens, yesterday left the veteran midfielder Enzo Scifo, out of his team to play the Netherlands — just weeks after talking him into joining the squad.

The 32-year-old played in the 0-0 draw with England in Morocco last week but Leekens has decided to do without him tomorrow.

"There's no point in letting them dictate play. If we leave them the freedom of the park right up to our penalty box we'll get into trouble. We have to go to take the fight to them," Leekens said. He has Jordan Vidovic in his team even though the defender is doubtful because of injury.

Tunisia's coach, Henry Kasperczak, has confirmed that Chokri El Ouassil will be his goalkeeper against England in Marseilles on Monday, in preference to his main rival, Ali Boumnijel.

Cameroon have sent home Serge Kwetche — because he is



Bergkamp: Passed fit

suffering from malaria. Fifa, world football's ruling body, has allowed the Africans to replace the 21-year-old midfielder with Abanda Jouan.

Belgium (v the Netherlands, St Denis, tomorrow); De Winter, Crasson, Staelens, Vidovic, Borckmans, Van der Elst, Gernst, Boffin, Wilmoets, Nils, Oltmans.

Chile.

Nastro Azzurro, would like to congratulate both teams on yesterday's draw. But, being Italy's national beer, we still think our team is the hot one. After all, you have to look after Nastro Uno.

For me Nastro Azzurro, Italy's Nastro Uno.

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FRANCE '98

YESTERDAY'S MATCHES

Italy 2 Chile 2

GROUP B: PARC LESCURE, BORDEAUX. ATTENDANCE: 36,500

Goals: Vieri 9, R Baggio pen 84
Yellow cards: 2 (Di Livio, Cannavaro)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 3
Offsides: 0
Free-kicks (against): 18
Coach: Cesare Maldini

Goals: Salas 45, 49
Yellow cards: 3 (Parraguez, Acuña, Rojas)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 1
Offsides: 1
Free-kicks (against): 18
Coach: Nelson Acosta

Running commentary

7 min: Di Livio, yellow card, foul on Rojas.
19 min: Baggio's through pass controlled and side-footed past Tapia by Vieri.
23 min: Salas's dangerous free-kick strikes into solid Italian wall.
27 min: Salas gives first glimpse of pace and control against Italy's defence closes ranks.
29 min: Salas again threatens, this time with a header just over.
31 min: Vieri thunders shot against Acuña.
32 min: Cannavaro, yellow card, foul on Salas.
33 min: Salas climbs higher than any Italian defender but gets no purchase on the ball.
34 min: Up: umbrellas.
40 min: Maldini's inventive forward pass ends with Baggio spinning without the ball.
44 min: Parraguez yellow card, foul.

45 min: Corner met by Zamorano's head. Ball bounces kindly from Reyes for Salas to hit the net from inside the goal area.
46 min: De Livio fortunate not to be sent off for felling Rojas.
49 min: Salas defies lack of height, flying high above Cannavaro to head Chile into lead.
52 min: Acuña booked, elbow on R Baggio.
57 min: Tapia blocks R Baggio certain goal.
64 min: Rojas keeps pressure on Italy. His deep cross headed close by Villarreal.
76 min: Rojas yellow card for diving.
83 min: R Baggio's superb short pass, Inzaghi's following shot blocked by Tapia.
83 min: R Baggio's drive from edge of area hits Fuentes on hand. Referee gives penalty.
84 min: R Baggio takes penalty and scores.

Cameroon 1 Austria 1

GROUP B: STADE MUNICIPAL, TOULOUSE. ATTENDANCE: 31,800

Goal: Njanka 77
Yellow cards: 1 (Ipoua)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 5
Offsides: 2
Free-kicks (against): 15
Coach: Claude Le Roy

Goal: Polster 90
Yellow cards: 1 (Pfeffer)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 6
Offsides: 2
Free-kicks (against): 13
Coach: Herbert Prohaska

Running commentary

3 min: Ipoua given free header by Austrians.
6 min: Feiersinger important clearance as Cameroon maintain bright, powerful pressure.
13 min: Weid, on Austria's left side, breaks through dangerously, not for the first time.
19 min: Omam-Biyik's first opening, but only a hopeful header from 15 yards.
28 min: Angbeaud's accurate long shot well dealt with by Konsel, stretching.
33 min: Lack of composure again spoils Cameroon build-up. Angbeaud shoots wide.
35 min: Womé rifles free-kick through Austrian wall but Konsel parries confidently.

58 min: At last. Terrific, accurate long drive by Womé forces Konsel to make fine push over.
70 min: Polster takes free-kick on edge of Cameroon penalty area and places big wall of defenders. Songo'o blocks safely on his line.
73 min: Songo'o again shows ability, pushing over a fierce shot from Pfeifferberger.
77 min: Style and flair surfaces as Njanka weaves at speed down left side past lungs before cutting in and sliding shot in.
82 min: Austria send on three substitutes.
90 min: From corner, Pfeffer heads down and Polster blasts in equaliser.

WORLD CUP BETTING

MOST of them have seen better days but Bulgaria should nevertheless have the measure of Paraguay (perhaps 2-0) in their Group D encounter this afternoon.

Stoichkov - the best bet to be first goalscorer - Kostadinov and Ivanov are in the twilight of their international careers but they are still fancied to beat Paraguay, whose

free kick-taking goalkeeper is almost as likely to score as their front line players.
Denmark should crucify Saudi Arabia (maybe 3-0) in their Group C encounter. The Danes are not exactly a goal machine but, with the Laudrup brothers, their prime outfield assets, they should hold too many guns for their opponents, who capitulated tamely to

Norway in a recent friendly. Brian Laudrup might be the first goal scorer.

France often have problems in converting style into goals but they should put a few past South Africa (maybe a 3-0 win) in their opening game this evening. Djorkaeff looks a fair bet to be opening goalscorer.

Ian Davies

PARAGUAY V BULGARIA	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paraguay	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bulgaria	5	5	5	5	5	5

CORRECT SCORE	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
0-0	5	5	5	5	5	5
1-1	5	5	5	5	5	5

FIRST GOALSCORER	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoichkov (B)	5	5	5	5	5	5
Paraguay (B)	5	5	5	5	5	5

SAUDI ARABIA V DENMARK	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	5	5	5	5	5	5
Denmark	5	5	5	5	5	5

CORRECT SCORE	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
0-0	5	5	5	5	5	5
1-1	5	5	5	5	5	5

FIRST GOALSCORER	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Laudrup (D)	5	5	5	5	5	5
Saudi Arabia (B)	5	5	5	5	5	5

FRANCE V SOUTH AFRICA	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	5	5	5	5	5	5
South Africa	5	5	5	5	5	5

CORRECT SCORE	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
0-0	5	5	5	5	5	5
1-1	5	5	5	5	5	5

FIRST GOALSCORER	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Desailly (F)	5	5	5	5	5	5
France (B)	5	5	5	5	5	5

TODAY'S MATCHES

Paraguay v Bulgaria

GROUP D: STADE DE LA MOISSON, MONTPELLIER. KICK-OFF: 13.30 BST

CANZA	ENCISO	KOSINOSHEV
KIVAROLA	RAMIREZ	KOSTADINOV
CHILAVERT	AGUILERA	STOICHOV
AYALA	CARDOZO	STOICHOV
ARCE	ACUNA	PROBABLE TEAMS

WEATHER: Clear early in the day, becoming overcast later. Temperature: 19C.

PARAGUAY

1 Jose Luis Chilavert...Velez Sarsfield
2 Francisco Arce...Palmiras
3 Catalino Rivarola...Gremio
4 Carlos Gamarra...Corinthians
5 Celso Ayala...River Plate
6 Edgar Aguilera...Cerro Cora
7 Juan Carlos Yegros...Cruz Azul
8 Aristides Rojas...Union Santa Fe
9 Jose Cardozo...Necaxa
10 Roberto Acuña...Real Zaragoza
11 Pedro Sarabia...River Plate
12 Danielo Aceval...Union Santa Fe
13 Carlos Paredes...Olimpia
14 Ricardo Rojas...Estudiantes
15 Miguel Benitez...Espanyol
16 Julio Cesar Enciso...Internacional
17 Hugo Brienza...Argentinos Juniors
18 Cesar Ramirez...Sporting Lisbon
19 Carlos Morales...Gimnasia Jujuy
20 Denis Caniza...Olimpia
21 Jorge Campos...Peking Guoan
22 Ruben Ruiz Diaz...Monterrey
Coach: Paulo Cesar Carpegiani

TEAM NEWS

PARAGUAY: The 21-year-old Sporting Lisbon striker Cesar Ramirez may start up front with Mexico-based Jose Cardozo. Niggling injuries to wing-back Francisco Ayala and Real Zaragoza playmaker Roberto Acuña throw some doubt on their places.

BULGARIA

1 Zdravko Zdravkov...Istanbulspor
2 Radosht Kishishev...Bursaspor
3 Trifon Ivanov...CSKA Sofia
4 Ivailo Petrov...Litex Lovetch
5 Ivailo Petrov...Sporting Lisbon
6 Zlatko Yanakov...Besiktas
7 Emil Kostadinov...CSKA Sofia
8 Hristo Stoichkov...CSKA Sofia
9 Lyuboslav Penev...Compostela
10 Krassimir Balakov...VFB Stuttgart
11 Ilan Iliev...Bursaspor
12 Borislav Mikhailov...Slavia Sofia
13 Goshko Ginchov...Antalya
14 Marian Hristov...Kaiserslautern
15 Adalbert Zafirov...Arminia Bielefeld
16 Anatoli Nankov...Locomotiv Sofia
17 Stoicho Stollor...Litex Lovetch
18 Daniel Borimirov...1860 Munich
19 Georgi Bachev...Slavia Sofia
20 Georgi Ivanov...Levski Sofia
21 Rosen Kirilov...Litex Lovetch
22 Milen Petrov...CSKA Sofia
Coach: Hristo Bonev

Saudi Arabia v Denmark

GROUP C: STADE FELIX-BOLLAERT, LENS. KICK-OFF: 16.30 BST

AL-SHAHRANI	AL-MUWALID	NEJES	COLLING
AL-SHAHRANI	AL-SHAHRANI	AL-SHAHRANI	AL-SHAHRANI
AL-SHAHRANI	AL-SHAHRANI	AL-SHAHRANI	AL-SHAHRANI
AL-SHAHRANI	AL-SHAHRANI	AL-SHAHRANI	AL-SHAHRANI
AL-SHAHRANI	AL-SHAHRANI	AL-SHAHRANI	AL-SHAHRANI

WEATHER: Overcast with a strong chance of rain. Temperature: 13C.

SAUDI ARABIA

1 Mohammed Al-Daye...Al-Tee
2 Mohammed Al-Jahni...Al-Ahli
3 Mohammed Al-Khalaf...Al-Ittihad
4 Abdullah Zebramawi...Al-Ahli
5 Ahmed Madani...Al-Ittihad
6 Fuad Amin...Al-Shabab
7 Ibrahim Al-Shahrani...Al-Ahli
8 Obaid Al-Dossari...Al-Wahda
9 Sami Al-Jaber...Al-Hilal
10 Sayed Al-Owairan...Al-Shabab
11 Fahad Al-Mehallab...Al-Shabab
12 Ibrahim Al-Harbi...Al-Nassr
13 Hussein Solaimani...Al-Ahli
14 Khalid Al-Muwallid...Al-Ahli
15 Youssef Al-Thayyan...Al-Hilal
16 Khamis Al-Owairan...Al-Hilal
17 Ahmed Al-Dossari...Al-Hilal
18 Nawaf Al-Temyet...Al-Hilal
19 Abdul Aziz Al-Ganoul...Al-Nassr
20 Hameed Saleh...Al-Ahli
21 Hussein Al-Sadiq...Al-Qadisiyah
22 Tahir Al-Anzaf...Al-Ettifaq
Coach: Carlos Alberto Parreira

TEAM NEWS

SAUDI ARABIA: Midfielder Sayeed Al-Owairan and strikers Sami Al-Jaber and Fahad Al-Mehallab are assured of starts.

DENMARK

1 Peter Schmeichel...Manchester Utd
2 Michael Schjorberg...Kaiserslautern
3 Marc Rieper...Celtic
4 Jes Høgh...Fenerbahce
5 Jan Heintze...Bayer Leverkusen
6 Thomas Helveg...Udinese
7 Allan Nielsen...Tottenham Hotspur
8 Per Frandsen...Bolton Wanderers
9 Miklos Molnar...Real Betis
10 Michael Laudrup...Ajax
11 Brian Laudrup...Rangers
12 Søren Colting...Brøndby
13 Jacob Laursen...Derby County
14 Morten Wieghorst...Celtic
15 Sids Tørring...MSV Duisburg
16 Mogens Krogh...Brøndby
17 Bjørge Guldbeak...FC Copenhagen
18 Peter Møller...PSV Eindhoven
19 Ebbe Sand...Brøndby
20 Rene Henriksen...AB Bagved
21 Martin Jørgensen...Udinese
22 Peter Kjær...Silkeborg
Coach: Bo Johansson

France v South Africa

GROUP C: STADE VELODROME, MARSEILLES. KICK-OFF: 20.00 BST

LIJAZAZU	DIORKEFF	INZALE	JACKSON
DESAILLY	ZIDANE	MCCARTHY	FISH
BAKHTHEZ	DUGARRY	MOSHOE	WONG
BLANC	PEITI	GUINARCH	MASSINGA
THURAM	DESCAMPS	PROBABLE TEAMS	FORTUNE

WEATHER: Clear early on. Chance of scattered cloud later. Temperature: 16C.

FRANCE

1 Bernard Lama...West Ham
2 Vincent Candela...Roma
3 Blaise Nzingue...Bayern Munich
4 Patrick Vieira...Arsenal
5 Laurent Blanc...Marseille
6 Youri Djorkaeff...Internationale
7 Didier Deschamps...Juventus
8 Marcel Desailly...Milan
9 Stéphane Guivarch...Auxerre
10 Zinedine Zidane...Juventus
11 Robert Pirès...Metz
12 Thierry Henry...Monaco
13 Bernard Diomède...Auxerre
14 Alain Boghossian...Sampdoria
15 Lilian Thuram...Parma
16 Fabien Barthez...Monaco
17 Emmanuel Petit...Arsenal
18 Frank Leboeuf...Chelsea
19 Christian Karembeu...Real Madrid
20 David Trésaguet...Monaco
21 Christophe Dugarry...Marseille
22 Lionel Charbonnier...Auxerre
Coach: Aimé Jacquet

TEAM NEWS

FRANCE: Aimé Jacquet is struggling to find the right blend in attack but is expected to field the side which beat Finland 1-0 in Helsinki last Friday. However, Stéphane Guivarch might lose his place up front to David Trésaguet, who replaced him in the 75th minute and scored the winner with seven minutes left.

SOUTH AFRICA

1 Hans Vonk...Heerenveen
2 Themba Mnguni...Mamelodi Sundowns
3 David Nyathi...St Gallen
4 Willem Nkomo...Orlando Pirates
5 Mark Fish...Bolton Wanderers
6 Philemon Masinga...Bari
7 Quinton Masinga...Atletico Madrid
8 Alfred Phiri...Vancouver
9 Shaun Bartlett...Cape Town Spurs
10 John Moshoe...Fenerbahce
11 Helman Mkhalele...Kayserspoort
12 Brendon Augustine...Linz ASK
13 Delron Buckley...VFL Bochum
14 Jerry Sikhosana...Orlando Pirates
15 Doctor Khumalo...Kaizer Chiefs
16 Bryan Baloji...Kaizer Chiefs
17 Benedict McCarthy...Ajax
18 Lebogang Morula...Vancouver
19 Lucas Radebe...Leeds Utd
20 Naughty Mokoena...Manning Rangers
21 Pierre Issa...Marseille
22 Paul Evans...SuperSport Utd
Coach: Philippe Troussier

THE RECEIVED wisdom about France is "good team, but no striker". That may well be true, especially as Kenny Dalglish, with no great record in recruiting overseas attackers this past-year, is apparently lining up Stephane Guivarch but the host nation still have a relatively easy passage to the next round.

The best way to take advantage of this happy coincidence is to tag France finishing top of Group H and the other seeds winning their groups with City Index. Each team living up to its top ranking - Brazil,

Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, Romania, and Argentina - earns 25 points and City offer 123-127. It's not hard to see why this quote is on the rise. Five winners out of eight and a buy sees you lose just two points, one more and a gain of 23 is yours. Spain may be edged out by Nigeria, Yugoslavia and we are duty-bound to insist that Romania will not top England's group but that still makes 125. The advised caution on accepting the perceived wisdom about a card frenzy on the

opening day proved worthwhile - just four yellows in two games - but Bulgaria v Paraguay, who had the second and third worst disciplinary records respectively in qualification, stands out as potent in this regard.

No one can expect a repeat of the performance in 1994 by the Syrian referee, Jamal Al-Sharif, who sent off two and booked eight in the powder-puff game between Bulgaria and Mexico, but this could be a busy day for Abdul Rahman al-Zaid from Saudi Arabia.

Richard Wetherell

SPREAD BETTING

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Group A

Brazil 2	Scotland 1	(St Denis)
Morocco 2	Norway 2	(Montpellier)
Scotland v Norway	(Bordeaux, 16.30)	
Brazil v Morocco	(Nantes, 20.00)	
Scotland v Morocco	(St Etienne, 20.00)	
Brazil v Norway	(Marseille, 20.00)	
P W D L F A Pts	Goalscorers	
1 Brazil.....1	0 0 2 1 3	C Sampaio 1, og 1
2 Morocco.....1	0 1 0 2 2	1 Hadji 1, Hadda 1
3 Norway.....1	0 1 0 2 2	1 Eggen 1, og 1
4 Scotland.....1	1 0 0 1 2	0 Collins 1

Group B

Yesterday Italy 2 Chile 2	(Bordeaux)
Yesterday Cameroon 1 Austria 1	(Toulouse)
Wed 17 June Chile v Austria	(St Etienne, 16.30)
Wed 17 June Italy v Cameroon	(Montpellier, 20.00)
Thu 23 June Italy v Austria	(St-Denis, 15.00)
Thu 23 June Chile v Cameroon	(Nantes, 15.00)
	Goalscorers
1 Chile.....1	0 1 0 2 2 1 Salas 2
2 Italy.....1	0 1 0 2 2 1 Vieri 1, R Baggio 1
3 Austria.....1	0 1 0 1 1 1 Polster 1
4 Cameroon ..1	0 1 0 1 1 1 Njanka 1

Group C

Today Saudi Arabia v Denmark	(Lens, 16.30)
Today France v South Africa	(Marseille, 20.00)
Thu 18 June South Africa v Denmark	(Toulouse, 16.30)
Thu 18 June France v Saudi Arabia	(St-Denis, 20.00)
Wed 24 June France v Denmark	(Lyon, 15.00)
Wed 24 June South Africa v Saudi Arabia	(Bordeaux, 15.00)

Group D

Today Paraguay v Bulgaria	(Montpellier, 13.30)
Tomorrow Spain v Nigeria	(Nantes, 13.30)
Fri 19 June Nigeria v Bulgaria	(Paris, 16.30)
Fri 19 June Spain v Paraguay	(St Etienne, 20.00)
Wed 24 June Spain v Bulgaria	(Lens, 20.00)
Wed 24 June Nigeria v Paraguay	(Toulouse 20.00)

Group E

Tomorrow South Korea v Mexico	(Lyon, 16.30)
Tomorrow Netherlands v Belgium	(St-Denis, 20.00)
Sat 20 June Belgium v Mexico	(Bordeaux, 16.30)
Sat 20 June Netherlands v S Korea	(Marseille, 20.00)
Thu 25 June Netherlands v Mexico	(St Etienne, 15.00)
Thu 25 June Belgium v South Korea	(Paris, 15.00)

Group F

Sun 14 June Yugoslavia v Iran	(St Etienne, 16.30)
Mon 15 June Germany v USA	(Paris, 20.00)
Sun 21 June Germany v Yugoslavia	(Lens, 13.30)
Sun 21 June USA v Iran	(Lyon, 20.00)
Thu 25 June Germany v Iran	(Montpellier, 20.00)
Thu 25 June USA v Yugoslavia	(Nantes, 20.00)

Group G

Mon 15 June England v Tunisia	(Marseille, 13.30)
Mon 15 June Romania v Colombia	(Lyon, 16.30)
Mon 22 June Colombia v Tunisia	(Montpellier, 16.30)
Mon 22 June Romania v England	(Toulouse, 20.00)
Fri 26 June Romania v Tunisia	(St Denis, 20.00)
Fri 26 June Colombia v England	(Lens, 20.00)

Group H

Sun 14 June Argentina v Japan	(Toulouse, 13.30)
Sun 14 June Jamaica v Croatia	(Lens, 20.00)
Sat 20 June Japan v Croatia	(Nantes, 13.30)
Sun 21 June Argentina v Jamaica	(Paris, 16.30)
Fri 26 June Argentina v Croatia	(Bordeaux, 15.00)
Fri 26 June Japan v Jamaica	(Lyon, 15.00)

Second round

Sat 27 June Winner B v Runner-up A	(Marseille, 15.30)
Sat 27 June Winner A v Runner-up B	(Paris, 20.00)
Sun 28 June Winner C v Runner-up D	(Lens, 15.30)
Sun 28 June Winner D v Runner-up C	(St Denis, 20.00)
Mon 29 June Winner E v Runner-up F	(Montpellier, 15.30)
Mon 29 June Winner F v Runner-up E	(Toulouse, 20.00)
Tue 30 June Winner G v Runner-up H	(Bordeaux, 15.30)
Tue 30 June Winner H v Runner-up G	(St Etienne, 20.00)

Quarter-finals

Fri 3 July Marseille winner v Lens winner	(St-Denis, 15.30)
Fri 3 July Paris v St Denis winner	(Nantes, 20.00)
Sat 4 July Toulouse winner v St Etienne winner	(Marseille, 15.30)
Sat 4 July Montpellier winner v Bordeaux winner	(Lyon, 20.00)

Semi-finals

Tue 7 July Nantes winner v Marseille winner	(Marseille, 20.00)
Wed 8 July Paris St Denis winner v Lyon winner	(St Denis, 20.00)

Third place play-off

Saturday 11 July	(Paris, 20.00)
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FINAL

Sunday 12 July	(St Denis, 20.00)
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STATISTICS OF THE DAY

3 THE NUMBER of times that France have made it to the semi-finals of the World Cup

4 THE NUMBER of defeats suffered by Paraguay in their pre-World Cup European tour, including a 5-1 defeat to the Netherlands

11 THE NUMBER of French players in the squad of 22 who have roots outside France

28 THE NUMBER of years, up to 1992, that South Africa was banned from playing international football because of apartheid

28 THE NUMBER of goals scored by Ebbe Sand of Brøndby and Denmark to be the leading scorer in the Danish league last season

40 THE NUMBER of times that Paraguay's goalkeeper, Luis Chilavert, has scored from set pieces for club and country

41 THE NUMBER of games played by France (34), Saudi Arabia (4), Denmark (3) and South Africa (0) in World Cup finals before today

TEAM OF THE DAY

FRENCH LEAGUE NON-FRENCH WORLD CUP XI

A Kópke (Marseille and Germany)

N Saveljic (Bordeaux and Yugoslavia)

P Issa (Marseille and South Africa)

V Oruma (Lens and Nigeria)

W Kogler (Cannes and Austria)

D Boffin (Metz and Belgium)

A Sime (St Etienne and Cameroon)

M Oruma (Lens and Nigeria)

J Collins (Monaco and Scotland)

V Nigaba (Monaco and Nigeria)

M Mahoué (Montpellier and Cameroon)

Substitutes

R Song (Metz and Cameroon)

D Angbeaud (Nice and Cameroon)

S Olanibisi (Nantes and Cameroon)

J-D Job (Lyon and Cameroon)

FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Tony Bucknham

Every druid has his day

Rollo Maughfling is a very happy Archdruid. For the first time in a decade, he can see in the solstice at Stonehenge

BY MICK BROWN

Emerging from his battered Austin Montego, dressed in his "civvies" of black jeans and T-shirt, his receding hair and expanding waistline engaged in a losing battle with encroaching middle-age, you might take Rollo Maughfling for a roadie for Deep Purple.

Striding down Glastonbury Tor, however, Maughfling, Archdruid of Glastonbury and Stonehenge, and Archdruid of Britain, looks like nothing less than a force of nature, his flowing ceremonial robes and mane of grey hair flying in the wind, sturdy elm and hardy ash seeming to bow in supplication as he passes. These are good times to be a Druid. Having been barred for the past nine years under an English Heritage ruling from celebrating the summer solstice at Stonehenge, Druids will once again be assembling within the ring of sacred stones on 21 June to perform the "Gorseedd" - one of Britain's oldest religious ceremonies. Druids - along with everybody else - have been barred from the site under a so-called exclusion zone imposed by English Heritage in the wake of disturbances involving police and travellers.

Circumscribed by a mixture of Section 13 of the Public Order Act and Section 14a of the Criminal Justice Act, the Druids have instead been obliged to celebrate their most important religious festival in a lay-by on the A344, the stones visible at a frustrating distance through the tangle of barbed wire and the ubiquitous cordon of police.

Over the past year, however, have come concessions. A limited number of Druids were allowed into the stone circle at autumn equinox and winter solstice in 1997, and for the spring equinox this year.

This week English Heritage announced that 100 people will be allowed to the stones for the summer solstice. This number will be made up of public, pagan, members of professional bodies and English Heritage itself.

"It's a start", says Maughfling. "But we have always argued that there should be full public access to the stones, and that is what we shall continue to campaign for."

The first recorded mention of Druids assembling at Stonehenge can be dated to the 17th century, when the scholar John Aubrey speculated in his work *Temple Druidism* that the stone circle might have been a Druid temple in neolithic times. More recently, academics have poured scorn on the suggestion, arguing that the Druids were the high priests of the Celts, who came to Britain no earlier than 1500BC, a thousand years after Stonehenge was completed.

"We would say that the way these stones are built presupposes a kind of worship related to sunrise and all that kind of business", says Maughfling. "This means that even if these people weren't called Druids, they were Druidic in function and fashion, and we have carried that on."

The rights of Druids to assemble at Stonehenge, says Maughfling, can be traced back over 800 years, enshrined in Richard the Lionheart's decree of "various customs and practices as inalienable rights of the British people", through Elizabeth I's proclamation on Druidic rights of the Silver Harp, to Queen Victoria's further ratification of the rights to ceremony "since time immemorial".

"And then," sniffs Maughfling, "we got Margaret Thatcher..."

As Archdruid of Glastonbury and of England, Maughfling presides

over 17 different Druid orders, representing 15,000 Druids throughout Britain. He describes Druidry as "the nature religion of Albion". Its central belief is the sacredness of the earth and nature and all living things - particularly all creatures great and small - and the relationship of the earth to the cosmos. "To quote William Blake," says Maughfling with a sniff, "we believe that everything that is, is holy."

It has animistic aspects, a belief, for example, in the spirits of the trees. "But it's not just a sloppy tree-hugging thing," says Maughfling. "We are rediscovering the ancient lore and magic and properties of trees generally, which is now I hope going to be of extreme help, given that the Forestry Commission is on the verge of admitting that most of our common trees in Britain and Europe are subject to decline and dieback. They're certainly admitting that the oak is, and that is our most sacred tree of all."

If ever a man's destiny was written in his name it is surely Rollo Maughfling's. Astonishingly, it is genuine.

By an extraordinary coincidence, he says, both his parents independently decided that he should be named Rollo. "I think it comes from the epic hero, Rollo the Strong, who sailed from Iceland, or possibly Finland, with - was it Erik the Brave?" Maughfling tugs at his beard. "One of those Erik's anyway..." Maughfling, he says, is the Anglo-Saxon spelling of the Irish Celtic Maughlin, "which became the Norman-French Merlin". He smiles enigmatically.

So is he suggesting...? Maughfling sniffs.

"Well, if you've got it in your genes as it were, I suppose it comes out and there's not very much you can do about it. But I kept it to myself for most of my life, if for no other reason than if you go around calling yourself Merlin everybody's going to take the piss."

Maughfling grew up in Cornwall. His father, an agricultural contractor, was a close friend of R. Morton Nance, Archdruid and Grand Bard of Cornwall, and compiler of the Cornish dictionary. From the age of four, the young Rollo would be carried on his father's shoulders to Druidic ceremonies.

"But Druidry wasn't strange in Cornwall. Everybody came to the ceremonies, and nobody would have thought of putting a stop to them - whatever for?"

Like the origins of the Druids themselves, Maughfling's early life appears to have been largely obscured by the mists of time. His education at public school, "which I didn't think very much of, to be perfectly honest", is a complete blank, its conclusion untimely - something, he suggests with an airy wave of the hand, to do with alcohol and girls, "neither of which you were supposed to have anything to do with".

At the age of 16 he left "school, home and everything else". Inspired by the burgeoning counter-culture - "all of which was of much greater interest to me than filling in forms to get into the civil service" - he made his way to London, where he became involved with the underground newspaper *The International Times*, and establishing the Notting Hill "free school". A friendship with John Michell,

Britain's foremost authority on the subjects of Atlantis, sacred sites and ley-lines (and a man nowadays revered by Druids as "Bard of the Eternal City") stirred Maughfling's interest in his own singular ancestry.

In the early Seventies he retreated to Glastonbury, where he has lived ever since. For 17 years he practised as a psychotherapist - "broadly Jungian" - while cultivating his interest in alternative medicine, Druidism and megalithic culture. Honouring, perhaps, the ancient rites of fertility, he fathered five children by four relationships - a subject which occasions much sniffing and ruminative stroking of the beard. In 1970 he became head of the Glastonbury Order of Druids, although at that stage, he says, it was "very much a local thing".

For years, he suggests, Druidry had been a religion awaiting its moment. But throughout the Seventies and Eighties, the conditions for its re-emergence began to gather force. There was the growing awareness of ecology, and the idea of Gala, or "mother earth" - a renewed awakening to the myths and legends of England, and the emergence of the New Age travellers, whose caravans of dilapidated jalopies and ex-army ambulances revived the spirit of the great fairs and public festivals of medieval times.

The catalyst was the infamous "battle of the beanfield" in 1985 when a free festival at Stonehenge was broken up by police baton-charges, leading eventually to the English Heritage enforcement order four years later and the Criminal Justice Act.

"Travellers aren't perfect," says

Maughfling, "but it was by no means right to brand the entire travelling community as criminals. It was a very great evil. What we saw then was an extraordinary wave of repression from government, for no apparent reason other than that the prime minister of the day felt personally threatened by these people."

"So we felt the whole background and philosophy of Druidry and natural religion had to come out and stand strong against this obsession with authoritarianism, the money markets, nuclear power and so on. To us, putting forward the nature religion and living in harmony with one's planets was common sense. Anything other than that is madness." In 1988, Maughfling was approached by Druids from all corners of the country, responding to what he describes as "a spiritual call" to rekindle Druidism as a public religion.

He was officially ordained as Archdruid of Britain, and a year later the Council of British Druid Orders was formed with the specific objective of reclaiming the right of access to Stonehenge, not only for Druids but for the public at large.

The sacred importance of Stonehenge cannot be under-estimated, says Maughfling. "The dynamic purpose with which we were anciently charged as Druids was to keep the planet tidy, keep it going. And Stonehenge is the place that was anciently designated by our people as a particular power-spot on the surface of the earth. If you're getting your ceremonies right at Stonehenge all sorts of changes can occur a lot faster and a lot more beneficially for everybody than if you don't."

"So rather than bash down a nuclear reactor, people just start dismantling them anyway." Maughfling sniffs. "Well, that's the principle

anyway." The Council of British Druid Orders is a broad church, says Maughfling, that believes in freedom and diversity. "We're not here to be some sort of alternative institution where you obey the rules or you're out. We're not the Freemasons."

Central to its aims is the restoration of Druidry as the "natural religion" of England, a central and visible part of public life, rather than an esoteric cult.

"Our holy days should be open to anybody who wants to come, have a good time and go to the pub afterwards or whatever."

Members of the general public wishing to attend the forthcoming summer solstice, however, will be obliged to watch the ceremony from a distance. This, says Maughfling, will consist of prayers to the earth and the rising sun, for peace in Ireland and for the starving children of Sudan. There will be the primordial chant of I-A-O, signifying the three Druidic rays of light, and there will be the honouring of the sacred oak.

The oak's significance, says Maughfling, is that it is generally the tree that grows the largest girth and the fullest canopy, and it is home to more than 300 species of bird and insect life. "So it's the earthly symbol of nature's bounty - tall oaks standing proud are a symbol of our nationhood and what we aspire to become as human beings."

Could he point one out to me, I wonder. Maughfling gathers his robes around him, and leads the way through the long grass towards a thicket of trees. "Is that one? No, no, it's hawthorn." He scans the thicket hopefully. "I'm sorry, my eyes are watering."

Maughfling sniffs again, more deeply this time, and finally reaches for his handkerchief. "Hay fever," he says.

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NEW
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Child slavery: the half-truth

"WE AT the Child Slavery Support Group take child slavery seriously," says Herman Woodlife, head of the Child Slavery Support Group. "For a start, and this may surprise you, we are all in favour of child slavery."

Many groups in the world are doing something to combat child exploitation and slavery, but it is safe to say that this is the only one that is actively promoting it.

"Don't get me wrong," says Herman Woodlife, with the air of one who is used to being got wrong. "All we are trying to say is that what people call child slavery is often child labour, or giving children a job, and what is wrong with that?"

Well, for a start, it means taking jobs from adults. And it means taking childhood away from children.



MILES KINGSTON

'Children hate school. They'd much rather be working'

"Absolute poppycock!" says Herman Woodlife. "It's about time we nailed this myth that children, given the choice, would wander the woods gathering wild flowers, or go folk dancing, or learn French. Children would rather sit at a computer, watch TV, play mothers and fathers or fight each other. In other words, do exactly what grown-ups do, and what they call work. You know, I'm not entirely convinced that there is such a thing as childhood."

Then where does the myth of childhood come from? "God knows," sighs Herman Woodlife. "There was never any fuss in previous ages about children working. Well, there was a certain amount of fuss about the conditions – but not about the principle itself. Why should it be different today?"

Well, maybe because children should be given a chance to have an education ...

"Poppycock!" says Herman Woodlife. "Have you ever been to a school? Have you watched children being educated? They hate it! They think of it as real slavery! They'd much rather be working. If you want to liberate children, liberate them from school, not the workplace! At least they're earning

money at work. In school, they're just wasting money." The slogans roll off Herman Woodlife's lips as if well rehearsed. There is a certain persuasive half-truth about his words. But if you half-believe what he says, you have to half-believe that school is a waste of time. Or at least a half-waste of time.

"But of course it is!" asseverates Herman Woodlife. "Most of what we learn we either forget or never use. All those years spent learning French or Shakespeare or the Bible or the basic geography of Nigeria – all a waste of time! Unless you are the kind of person who goes in for pub quizzes. The kinds of thing you should be learning at school are those which help prepare you for the workplace, for life. Do we learn at school about mortgages? Civil engineering? Money management? Industrial reality? I think not. Where do you learn this sort of thing? From your mates at work. So children who start working at 10 are going to be 10 years ahead of other children! That is why we support Child Slavery, so-called. Child Pride, we like to call it. You know, many children who have been working – with our support – often tell us in later life how grateful they are that they got such a practical start. Especially those who went on to university, and didn't arrive green behind the ears."

But is working in some East End or Pakistani sweatshop, turning out cheap soccer shirts, really a practical start in life?

"Sure," says Herman Woodlife. "Do you think playing Tomb Raider II on a computer, like some pampered middle-class kid, is a practical start? I was watching a film about the late Gianni Versace the other day, and do you know, the thing that he always regretted, was not having a practical background in sewing and tailoring. Our kids have got a great start in life if they want to be a superstar."

Our kids? "Our kids turning out cheap sportswear in the Far East."

So the Child Slavery Support Group is just a front for the sportswear Mafia?

"Certainly not!" says Herman Woodlife, shocked. "We exist to redress a balance. You have heard the case against child slavery. But have you heard the case for child slavery, argued humanely and sensitively? I fear not. That is why we are here."

Do you want to know more about the work of the Child Slavery Support Group? Send on SAE to Junior Workforce Dept, Soccer Sportswear House, London.



In the fourth of our series on coastal towns preparing for summer, by Nikki English, a crazy golf course is prepared at Bognor Regis

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Truth-tellers at work

Sir: Your piece on whistleblowers ("Sick to death of morals", 9 June) left out the largest single group of them – lay trade union officials based in workplaces and dependent on employers for their wages.

In the 1980s safeguards against harassment and victimisation were swept away, both by legislation reducing people's rights at work and the encouragement of an intimidatory workplace climate. As a result, we have a generation of managers who believe that they must be obeyed at all times, insisting that individuals opposing them are uncooperative, neurotic or subversive. Sadly, as your article points out, the rest of the workplace often joins in the bullying. This is particularly bitter for union officials, since workmates are quite capable of seeking their help one minute and abusing them the next.

Provisions against harassment and unfair dismissal on grounds of race or gender should be extended to cover those who legitimately express their opposition to aspects of their working lives.

JOSIE EDWARDS
London N10

Sir: Roger Dobson is right that we need whistleblowers if we are to tackle malpractice in organisations and protect the vulnerable. He is also right to point out that "while Britain's whistleblowers run the risk of dismissal, discrimination and ill health, their counterparts in America have enjoyed federal protection since 1989".

It is unfortunate that he did not mention that Richard Shepherd's Public Interest Disclosure Bill is now completing its parliamentary passage and is expected to come into force next year. This measure protects public interest whistleblowers and has been described by American campaigners as "a landmark first step both for freedom of speech and institutional accountability". After careful analysis, they conclude that while its general protection will be equivalent to that in the States, it is stronger in four key areas (application across all sectors, application to malpractice overseas, protection for legal advice, and controls on gagging clauses).

GUY DEHN
Director
Public Concern at Work
London EC1

A good way to tax

Sir: You should not be so swift to dismiss hypothecated taxation as "superficial" (leading article, 9 June).

The linking of specific forms of taxation and the benefits they pay for, such as congestion charges and road charges, can be an excellent way of softening the blow of paying tax. The Road Fund Licence is itself a hypothecated tax – as is the BBC licence fee, and even the National Insurance contribution.

In a world where electors refuse to vote for political parties which put up income tax, and yet demand extra spending on public services, linking

specific charges and taxes to clear benefits is one way of slicing the Gordian knot. If linked to local referenda and citizens' juries, hypothecation can give real power to communities to take decisions about how their money is spent – taking the decision-making away from the men in Whitehall, and giving it to the taxpayers. That is why Treasury officials are so opposed to it.

PAUL RICHARDS
London W6

Student finance

Sir: Your leading article on student loans (6 June) is self-contradictory. On the one hand, you maintain that we have failed to get the message across on the new system for funding higher education; on the other you repeat once again the arguments which we have made on every possible occasion since David Blunkett announced the Government's response to Dearing last July. This was a tough decision – but it was a nettle which any government would have had to grasp. As we did so, we explained our position clearly both within the Labour Party and, more importantly, to those students thinking about going to university later this year.

On both counts, we have been successful. The fact is that the opposition to our proposals has been relatively muted. The previous government took fright from addressing this issue and slashed the per-capita funding of students instead. We took tough decisions and explained our case. In doing so, we have seen an increase in applications from school-leavers to go to university this year and David Blunkett got the overwhelming support of the Labour Party conference last year. A recent MORI poll gave the Government a six-fold lead over the Conservatives on handling education issues.

We have "hammered home" the points you make. But because there has not been significant opposition, there has not been significant press coverage in recent months. What coverage there has been has reflected precisely the points you highlight. However, in communicating directly with hundreds of thousands of school-leavers with a carefully targeted advertising and leaflet campaign, we have got across the message that our proposals are fair and represent a good deal for those who earn more as graduates.

KIM HOWELLS
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Education and Employment
London SW1

Sir: Is it a coincidence that the legislation on tuition fees is being rushed through at the time when vast majority of students are having exams and cannot concentrate on campaigning against it?

IAN WALLACE
President
ADRIAN SMITH
Chair
Glamorgan University Liberal Democrats
Pontypridd

Arms and the Aegean

Sir: Rupert Cornwell is right to highlight the grave risk of conflagration in the Aegean ("Missile threat pushes Cyprus towards war", 10 June). While rumours that the planned S-300 anti-aircraft missile consignment has already been deployed to Cyprus have been dismissed, tensions are bound to resurface in the coming weeks. Athens has warned that if Turkey carries out its pledge to destroy the missiles, it will consider such a step as a *cassus belli*.

The US State Department and UK Foreign Office have condemned the proposed missile deployment as introducing a new destabilising element in the dispute over Cyprus. Yet if Turkey and Greece do go to war, the irony is that they will be fighting with equipment supplied by the US and other Alliance member states. Since the end of the Cold War, Nato countries have sent thousands of offensive weapons to the region, much transferred from old iron curtain positions. Now, despite concerns over the militarisation of the region, Nato allies continue to fuel the escalating arms race between Greece and Turkey.

If Nato is serious about its commitment to preventing further destabilisation in the Balkans, as current talks among Nato ambassadors over Kosovo suggests, Alliance members must immediately halt their irresponsible arming of the two adversaries in the Aegean.

LUCY AMIS
NINO LORENZINI
British American Security Information Council
London WC2N

Suffering gays

Earl Russell is correct to point out that gays are constantly bullied for being different from other people, while being unable to change (letters, 10 June). Ann Widdecombe, however, is not right in suggesting we benefit from "equal rights rhetoric".

There is no country on earth in which gay people enjoy a right which even the world's most oppressed heterosexuals take for granted: the right to marry. Because of this, rights in matters as varied as employment perks and prison visits are denied us. In UK law, gay men are not allowed to choose their profession freely, and can legally be sacked from any job simply for being gay (equal rights legislation does not apply to us). An innocent cuddle in the park will lead to arrest. Holding hands in the street is unthinkable. Your heterosexual readers may wish to imagine their own lives without these freedoms.

In sexual matters the discrimination is starker still: we are not allowed to make love in a hotel room (more often enforced than readers may believe), and group sex is a crime. Recently a few men were imprisoned for indulging in consensual sadomasochistic practices which, like them or not, are perfectly legal for heterosexuals. Last week two men were imprisoned for 18 months and ordered to register with the police as sexual perverts for 10 years. Their offence:

they had amassed a sock collection for fetishistic purposes – bizarre certainly, but if they had collected women's clothes instead they would have had nothing to fear from the law.

The "equal rights rhetoric" Mrs Widdecombe so despises is exactly that: rhetoric.

DAVID BISHOP
Brussels

Hazardous food

Sir: Your leader-writer's suggestion (8 June) that the Prince of Wales is out of order in giving voice to his concerns about the headlong industrial drive towards genetically engineered foods is hard to credit.

The Prince is doing the country a great favour. Over the past 18 months, research reports by Eurobarometer, ourselves and other independent bodies have pointed repeatedly to the degree of well-justified public anxiety and mistrust that surrounds the political and regulatory framework supposedly surrounding this potentially all-pervasive technology. But the machine rolls on unamended.

Last year, in a study sponsored, to its credit, by Unilever (itself a potential beneficiary of the technology), we found that the paucity of ministerial advisory committees and other regulatory mechanisms is falling utterly to engage with issues of central significance for most people – particularly, the unknowns surrounding future cumulative dependency on genetically engineered crops and foods, with the risks of unforeseen (because unforeseeable in terms of current scientific understanding) synergies and ecological or public health mishaps. We urged major new experiments in public involvement and discussion, to attain government and industry to these apparently unrecognised concerns. So far there has been not a vestige of response.

What does it take to get such concerns taken seriously? Hurray for the Prince of Wales! ROBIN GROVE-WHITE
Director
Centre for the Study of Environmental Change
Lancaster University

Time for the bus

Sir: Hattie Hayridge's amusing piece ("Irritations of modern life", 10 June) on one-man buses is in need of a little factual input. The modern bus is in fact more passenger friendly than ever before. The industry spends a great deal of time and money researching its customers' requirements and wishes, before designing the buses accordingly.

These vehicles are not the cause of traffic jams, but the victims. Where there are properly enforced, dedicated bus lanes, the modern bus can solve the congestion conundrum efficiently and quickly. MICHAEL BARTLETT
Head of Media Relations
Confederation of Passenger Transport UK
London WC2

Battles on television

Sir: Your media correspondent Janine Gibson's piece on the alleged use of archive rather than contemporary footage in Carlton Television's *The Connection* brought back memories of a stint I did for National Iranian Radio/Television (NIRT) in the mid-1970s (Inquiry into Castro fraud, 10 June).

I was then the TV director for Iranian Television's weekly *Special Agent* current affairs programme. Ideally, my job was to cover events in the outside world of such chaos that it made Iran under the Shah look a haven of peace. The difficulty was that my Iranian employer, from the old royal family, did not want to get killed in any trouble spot, and the Iranian cameramen I was obliged to employ could never get the camera aperture right, faithfully under-exposing miles and miles of film.

I remember returning from shooting a thousand feet or so of my employer at the front-line in Angola (in reality we were by a palm tree at Kinshasa airport, in another country) to find none of the film was of any use.

I found a palm tree along the then named Pahlavi Avenue in Tehran for the stand-up bit, and then did the round of embassies for footage of heavy Russian transport planes airlifting huge amounts of war material into Luanda airport.

All I could find was some interesting promo stuff of an American C141 doing familiarisation take-offs and landings in Florida. When we broadcast it, my employer was bravely standing right at a battle zone (sound effects added) and Russian transports – complete with US Air Force markings – were taking off and landing at Luanda every 40 seconds or so.

TIM SYMONDS
London W1

IN BRIEF

You brand Mr Kelvin MacKenzie "infamous" because he used the Götcha headline "after the loss of 368 lives in the sinking of the *Belgrano*". (Talk Radio bid lures MacKenzie from Mirror, 9 June) Are you sure? A glance at the *Sun* shows the headline reads "Götcha – our lads sink gunboat and hole cruiser". The headline refers to the gunboat. The news of the sinking of the *Belgrano* came through later. The headline was of course promptly scrapped, except for purposes of demonisation by the chattering classes.

Professor JOHN VINCENT
University of Bristol

Pandora remarks (8 June) on the potential advantage/drawback arising from the design of the First Daughter's "Beetle". The First Family should read the report of a once-much-quoted divorce case (*Yvonne Yull 1945*) which turned on the ability of the accused parties to commit adultery in the front seat of a lorry. The verdict (that love conquers all) appeared – it was observed – to have reflected some personal experience of the judge.

EDWIN DAVIE
Downham Market, Norfolk

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

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Bigger and better

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Mr Brown's attempt to see the big picture

LIKE SO many of the Chancellor's big speeches, yesterday's allegedly historic reform of the public finances had been so extensively pre-spun that it was difficult to tell which way up the finished article actually was. It is probably safe to say it was a judicious blend of Thatcherism and social democracy. The ending of the annual "spending round" ritual is the most significant change, although it had been advertised long in advance and, in practice, merely extends the system by which the Government decided simply to stick to the spending plans it inherited for two years after the election.

It is entirely sensible to cut out the repetition and duplication of arguing over the same square inches of bureaucratic turf every year. It was not just a waste of time, it distorted spending in favour of short-term projects because it was difficult to plan over a number of years. And the system of "bilaterals", by which each department's spending was fixed in a separate negotiation with the Treasury, actively prevented the Government forming an overview of its priorities.

Of course, the horse-trading between departments has not been abolished, and nor can it be. The fact is that the comprehensive spending review has got stuck in a number of disputes between the Treasury and departments. The Ministry of Defence is, for example, worried about its aircraft carriers. It seems that one of the reasons why Mr Brown came to the House of Commons yesterday and stole his own thunder from his Mansion House speech last night was to put pressure on those of his colleagues who have yet to agree their budgets. It had "always been planned" to announce the outcome of the spending review in two parts, said the spin doctors, although the omission of the actual numbers from yesterday's statement was curious.

It had no doubt also "always been planned" to leak the target of cutting the national debt to 40 per cent of national income to the *Financial Times* this week, as the spending negotiations drew to a close. Again, this was "spin music" designed to encourage a prudent outcome. A big fuss about the national debt helps draw attention to the fiscal irresponsibility of the previous Conservative administration and make sense of the Chancellor's "iron discipline".

However, if we clear away all the spin, a few facts do become clear. One is that Mr Brown is not "continuing to stick to Tory spending targets for the rest of this parliament", contrary to the claims of his detractors on

PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC REACTS TO THE THREAT OF NATO AIR STRIKES...



Labour's left (including for these purposes the Liberal Democrats). Strong economic growth has given him room to manoeuvre, and he is doing the sensible thing which is to increase spending a little - in priority areas - and to pay back a little bit more debt than planned. The Liberal Democrat £50bn "war chest", however, is a figment of speculative forecasting, being the cumulative amount of extra spending that might theoretically be available if the economy went on growing "beyond history" - in Alan Greenspan's resonant description of the American economic miracle.

The Conservative benches in the Commons raised ironic cheers for the Chancellor's announcement that the privatisation programme would continue. In fact, they should be embarrassed that Mr Brown could still

find so many more things to sell off. For all the Chancellor's courting of the "Old" elements of his party, he cut a thoroughly "New" figure yesterday, linking new money to efficiency savings and "modernisation".

Mr Brown's reforms mean that the priorities of the spending negotiations, which will now take place more or less continuously, should be more long-term than in the past, and that the much vaunted "big picture" will be easier to see. That much is to be applauded. The consequence of the new system, however, is that the setting of priorities will be even more centrally controlled than before, with the Prime Minister and Chancellor effectively dictating to their colleagues, which makes the openness which Gordon Brown promised yesterday all the more important.

The difficulties of megaphone diplomacy

PRESIDENT CLINTON cleared his diary yesterday to defend his forthcoming visit to China, the first by a US president since the Tiananmen Square massacre nine years ago. He said: "Seeking to isolate China will not free one more political dissident, will not open one more church to those who wish to worship, will do nothing to encourage China to live by the laws it has written." He is right to argue against a policy of isolating a nation of 1 billion people, even if this caricature of the opposition to his visit is unfair. He has been assailed by a coalition of human rights campaigners, Taiwan lobbyists, Republicans complaining about Chinese funds going into Democratic party coffers and anti-abortionists who do not like China's "one child" policy. Of these, the critics who really matter are those who want to apply pressure on the Chinese government about human rights. The appalling treatment of dissidents and minorities such as the Tibetans is a serious charge in the court of world opinion.

But the President is right to argue for a policy of constructive engagement. It is naive to expect the Chinese to stop rounding up dissidents for the sake of a bit more foreign trade. What will liberalise China is the exchange of goods, information and ideas.

Precisely the same considerations should rule the British government's attitude to China although, once again, the declaration of an explicitly "ethical" foreign policy has given rise to the expectation that Tony Blair and Robin Cook should indulge in gesture-diplomacy. Mr Blair may have been going a little far in welcoming Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, as a fellow moderniser. But the argument that economic reform will lead to social reform remains sound. Better for Mr Blair and Mr Clinton to lecture the Chinese on the basics of human rights on trade missions than at the United Nations. And far better to lecture Mr Zhu, as Mr Clinton will, on the steps at one end of Tiananmen Square than by megaphone across the Pacific.

No more tips

THE WHOLE business of tipping is an embarrassment. No one has any idea whether to add 10 per cent, 12.5 per cent, 15 per cent or nothing. And it has flummoxed the Low Pay Commission, which says tips should count in the minimum wage. The solution is to abolish tipping, which only benefits employers, along with the practice of adding an "optional" percentage to the bill. Then restaurants, hairdressers and taxis can charge a proper price and pay proper wages.

Britain's gay MPs: out of the closet but not yet equal

COMING OUT isn't what it used to be. This week Labour MPs are popping out like corks out of champagne bottles to tell us that they just happen to be happy homosexuals. More are to follow, apparently, now that the closet door is not so much ajar but wide open.

The general reaction to these announcements of gayness appears to be one of utter indifference. The tabloids can't even be bothered to work themselves up about it, preferring to concentrate on the fortunes of those glorious models of heterosexuality: Ulrika and Stan, Gazza and Sheryl.

David Borrow, MP for South Ribblesdale, came out on Monday; Gordon Marsden, the MP for Blackpool South, declared his homosexuality three days later. What prompted them were not fears of being "outed", either by gay activists or by the media, but the forthcoming vote on lowering the age of consent for homosexuals from 18 to 16.

It is a free vote, and one that is expected to be passed with a big majority. Although David Borrow has said that one tabloid newspaper has been doorstepping his family, and friends among his constituents, the response has been muted. "I had the impression that most people are not particularly bothered."

This mirrors the comment made by Angela Eagle when I interviewed her last year, that most people are far more sensible than we give them credit for. When she came out as a lesbian the most hostile comments she received were mainly from people saying that they really were not in-

terested in what she did in her private life. It wasn't that they objected to her sexuality; they did not want it "forced down their throats".

Such remarks show just how far we are from treating gay and straight people as equal. While robust heterosexuality is shoved down our throats every minute of the day, any mention of homosexuality is seen as slightly distasteful, as confrontational and as being "a little more information than we need to know right now".

Generally, however, if we want a real sign of Cool Britannia, we can forget all the rubbish about pop stars hanging out at No 10 and simply look at our more relaxed attitudes to homosexuality.

Political culture is belatedly reflecting the changes in popular culture that have occurred throughout the last decade. I remember wondering, when I attended Diana's funeral, and Elton John walked in with his boyfriend and George Michael, was there ever seriously a time when Elton tried to persuade us that he was not really gay, or beld for that matter? Well, yes, there was, and thankfully that time has gone.

The more public figures come out, the less we are interested. Isn't this a good thing?

Homosexuality may be uncontroversial to some but it still has shock value for others. Matthew Parris has suggested that these MPs are doing it just to get attention. Strange days indeed when, in order to be remotely significant or interesting as a politician, it is necessary to announce an attraction to the same sex.

Still, it's all in a day's work. As we



SUZANNE MOORE

It is the age-old argument: that giving gays equality somehow undermines the family

already know, some of Tony Blair's best friends are gay or gayish, or of the new kind of sexual persuasion that means that you can be gay in the sophisticated south but not in the priggish north. The good people of Harlepool are still considered too delicate to be told straightforwardly that their MP is gay.

Perhaps this is irrelevant. Yet what is being fostered is a false sense of equality; a feeling that once the age of consent comes down, gay people will have nothing to fight for any more.

It may well be the case that many members of this government are personally comfortable with homosexuality, but politically they are still dawdling behind the Lib Dems in their policies towards gays. The Government is eager to fall into line with the changes that have taken place in

mainstream culture, rather than set the pace. On gays in the military, equal partnership rights, on laws on sexual discrimination, on the recognition of gay-bashing as a hate crime, Labour still has a long way to go.

It is not enough to have a few openly gay MPs, all of whom have to conform to some sensible idea of homosexuality as exactly the same as heterosexuality, ie we all live in long-term monogamous relationships with our wonderfully supportive partners. Whatever happened to the idea of equal but different? Are there no gay people left who live for sex and shopping - or is that a homophobic remark in an era of such overwhelming sensibleness?

Since a vigorous sex life has become compulsory, we are really more interested in the likes of Ann Widdecombe, who despite never having done it knows for a fact that sex is overrated. She could be right, since heterosexuality itself now appears to be in such a sorry state that men can have sex with women only after they have taken drugs that may kill them, and women can enjoy sex only if they, too, pop a few pills.

Personally I think we should dispense with the sex and just take drugs, but in such a scenario being gay no longer seems outrageous; it is beginning to look like the sanest and safest option.

This doesn't mean that there isn't still a lot to fight for, and we shouldn't be fooled into a laissez-faire approach to gay rights just because there are a few gay MPs.

Last week in the Lords, Baroness Blackstone revealed in a debate about

the Sexual Orientation Discrimination Bill (SOD for short) proposed by Baroness Turner, just what lies at the heart of this government's attitude to homosexuality.

The Bill, she said, "invites us to treat same-sex couples as the equivalent of a family unit, which leads logically to treating all mixed-sex couples as the equivalent of a family unit."

She explained that while taking account of social reality, "marriage has provided for millions of people a strong and stable base for the bringing up of children in a rapidly changing society", and so she would not do anything that would "undermine the family". Here again, the central values of marriage and family are counterpoised to the threat of homosexuality.

This is the age-old argument: that giving gays equality somehow undermines the family; and it is shocking that this government is still prepared to make it.

When are those in power going to realise that many of us, gay, straight, and too tired to know the difference, will continue to live, in the infamous words of Section 28, in "pretended family relationships", and reflect this in law? This is the issue that we should be bothered about.

So don't be fooled by a few well-groomed MPs coming out. Don't be fooled by gay people being given the right to have sex at 16. To confuse a more comfortable attitude towards homosexuality with real equality is to construct a new kind of closet altogether, albeit one with slightly more room to move around in than before.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I want to bring pleasure to lots of people"
Alan C Greenberg,
American multi-millionaire, who has
set up a \$1m fund to distribute Viagra
at a New York hospital.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Is it possible to succeed without any act of betrayal?"
Jean Renoir, French film-maker

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The Japan Times
One big worry about the falling yen is that it may spur exports to the US and reignite trade friction across the Pacific. Another is that higher domestic prices of imported products may further depress consumer spending and thus make it even more difficult to achieve the hoped-for economic recovery. Already, Japan's ballooning trade surplus is in the danger zone. Increases in import costs would hit companies that depend heavily on foreign sup-

plies, and could even accelerate the deflationary trend in the economy. Thus a continued weakening of the yen could cause vexing problems at home and abroad. Fundamentally, there is only one way to reverse the yen's retreat. That is to put the economy back on its feet through stepped-up structural reform and expansion of domestic demand. The yen at a seven-year low of 140 yen (to the dollar) should be taken as a wake-up call to Japan's dormant economy.

MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The repercussions of the falling yen.

South China Morning Post
The mainland is well aware of the need to confront the challenges presented by the falling yen. But the market seems intent on punishing such a dis-

play of openness, almost as if some brokers would prefer Peking to revert to its secretive ways of the past. Even the pessimists who persist in believing a yuan devaluation is in-

evitable, despite all the evidence, admit that it will not occur for at least another 18 months. Given the fast pace at which economic events move in Asia, that is so far into the future as to be almost meaningless. After all, who would have predicted 18 months ago that Hong Kong would now be facing such a severe downturn?

Singapore Business Times
Japan can and must do more to rid its economy of the stifling regulations that distort prices

and competition and discourage inward foreign investment. It must move faster to clean up its banking system by smoothing the way for bankruptcies and asset disposals and by encouraging mergers and takeovers. And above all, it must continue to try to increase consumer spending possibly by pursuing policies that make for negative real interest rates. But the fact has to be faced that none of these initiatives is likely to bear fruit - or even happen - any time soon.

PANDORA

MINISTER FOR Agriculture Jack Cunningham is privately annoyed by one aspect of yesterday's proposed EU lifting of the ban on British beef. The EU document requires a cull on the calves of all infected cattle. Cunningham himself proposed a cull some months ago, but the Treasury, in its nigging approach to every new budgetary expenditure, refused approval. As a result, British farmers will have to wait longer before the lifting of the beef ban takes effect.

THE LADS OF Westminster were just as excited by yesterday's inaugural World Cup match between Scotland and Brazil as the rest of the country's football fans. As reported, the Prime Minister was forced to leave Labour's laddish Commons viewing room before the second half in order to attend a Downing Street reception for carers hosted by Cherie Blair. Millions of British husbands will sympathize with his domestic plight, but what will they make of William Hague?

The Boy Wonder persisted in holding a Shadow Cabinet meeting at the same time as the match, sending his laddish approval rating down to near zero. As for Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown, one of his aides told Pandora that he was "around the office while the rest of us were watching the game". Still, although never a great football enthusiast, Paddy remains an astute politician. He asked for the final score to be passed to him so he could report it to his colleagues at a Parliamentary Party meeting.

ASTEROIDS HAVE replaced Nazis, commies and even terrorists as Hollywood's favourite villains in films like *Deep Impact* and the soon-to-be-released *Armageddon*. But it's not just Tinseltown that's taking this flying space debris seriously. America's NASA is spending \$3m this year for research on how to deflect the rogue rocks from Earth's atmosphere, with a further \$1bn budgeted over the next decade. Closer to home, Pandora spoke with the British National Space Centre. Total UK expenditure on "near earth object" research? A miserly, Dr Who-like £50,000.

EDITORS Tina Brown and Graydon Carter are turning into the "George and Martha" of New York-based magazine empire Condé Nast's very own Edward Albee drama. (In this case, it's *Who's Afraid of St Neutouse* of course.) The professional rivalry between the two has grown into active hatred since Carter first replaced Brown as

editor of Vanity Fair after she became editor of the *New Yorker*. Now Vanity Fair has published an attack on Tina by media critic James Wolcott, a former Brown acolyte. He accuses her of encouraging a critical biography about former New Yorker editor William Shawn "rooted in a desire to pollute and undercut the moral high ground of the Shawn era, which the present regime finds burdensome." How wonderful to think Tina and Graydon will soon be together under the same roof in the new Condé Nast building in Times Square.

THE REPUTATION of Warwick University is on a roll, but everything is not idyllic back on campus. According to *The Bocr*, the university's newspaper, the theft of crockery from the dining halls has become so widespread that a new incentive system has been established for Hospitality Services staff. This has resulted in "overzealous" room searches by porters, upsetting a number of students. One porter, who insisted on remaining anonymous, explains the rules of the hunt: "If you collect five of these pieces, you'll get a free meal." It must be extraordinary school food.

UMA THURMAN (below) next hits our screens as Emma Peel in this summer's release of *The Avengers*. Better catch it, as this may be her last role for a long time. The actress, who is pregnant with actor Ethan Hawke's child, recently told *Premier* magazine between bites of stinging nettles soup ("superhigh in iron") that "I put off having a life for years because I was working." Now she and Hawke are refurbishing a haven in upstate New York. Far less aloof than usual, Uma gave her interviewer unique "access", including an invitation to accompany her shopping because "I need to buy a toilet." Pandora salutes *Premier* Magazine for going way beyond the bog standard celebrity profile.



Photograph: London Features International

When critics become entertainers



PHILIP HENSHER

Have we reached the point where we find critics more interesting than their subject?

THE NEWSREADER on the BBC main bulletin assumed so lugubrious a voice that I thought for a moment Barry Norman had died, rather than just passed to the Other Side. The BBC's most prominent film critic, the voice of multiplexgoers everywhere, has taken the Murdoch shilling, and from now on will be dispensing his wisdom to Sky TV's empire of pay and display.

A thrilling moment all round, I suppose, for historians of the post-modern condition: the day had arrived when the conditions of employment of a mere critic, a commentator on the slick fictions of Hollywood, was judged interesting and important enough to follow the day's events in Westminster, Washington, and Kosovo. Evidence, as the intellectuals would say, that everything nowadays is just film.

Is criticism important? Have we really reached the point where we think critics are more interesting, more valuable than what they write about? Can anybody seriously suppose that, if Herzog or Kiarostami died tomorrow, the news would be judged significant enough to make the main evening bulletin? Of

course, in part, this is just the usual self-obsession of the BBC, its curious belief that the public has the slightest interest in its labour disputes or gives a toss what happens to Radio 3.

But we are fascinated by critics; even the humble book reviewer can have his work picked up and chewed over by a number of regular columns. At the other end of the

market, a fair number of critics - Brian Sewell, or Clive James in his TV-reviewing days - became effortlessly, and unremarkably, more famous than their hapless subjects.

The last time, I suppose, I watched Barry Norman's review of the week's movies, it was called something like *Film '78*, and he was in an armchair tweedily chirruping "Apocalypse Now - and why not?" Tuning in the other night, nothing much had changed, and it was frankly pretty hard to imagine anyone listening to these views, and taking them seriously as criticism. He seems an amiably avuncular sort of chap, with a sweetly wooden way with the antique. And, unlike most film critics, he hasn't, over the years, come to loathe the very idea of going to the movies.

The trouble is, however, that his views only have the superficial appearance of rational criticism. The other night, he started pretty badly on *A Thousand Acres* by somehow forgetting to tell the viewer that it was based on a famous novel by Jane Smiley, and proceeding in the following remarkable vein. "Now, *A Thousand Acres* is, if you can imag-

ine such a thing, *King Lear* transposed to a farm in the American Midwest. Actually, the idea's not at all bad - it's the execution that's wrong... What in Shakespeare's hands was a classic tragedy, whose central character was an object of pity, is transformed into a glibly downbeat story of yet another dysfunctional American family, as if we haven't seen enough of those."

This sort of thing, which makes less and less sense the more you think about it, is very much his stock in trade. It will do no good to say that it isn't really criticism, still less anything resembling rational analysis, just someone paid to sit and say, "I didn't much like it." The fact is this is exactly what we want critics to do.

The noble profession of Johnson and Coleridge has passed into a branch of the entertainment industry; the secret of the success of this kind of criticism is that it is not intellectual, not analytical, and it confirms us in our belief that anybody at all could be a critic.

Barry Norman is massively popular and successful - he has a tabloid nickname, he has a famous catchphrase. And it's not because

he's particularly remarkable or interesting in what he says, but because he's so ordinary. He is a figure of strange critical authority who confirms us in our belief that there is no such thing as critical authority, that some day we, too, are going to be paid to express our tastes on Sky TV.

A couple of weeks ago, I happened on a food programme in which three restaurant critics were cooking for restaurant chefs. The chefs were predictably unimpressed by the results. But the programme makers missed a trick by not asking them to write a column about the meal, thus giving Matthew Fort a chance to be as snooty about Anthony Worrall Thompson's prose style as the chef had already been about the critic's chicken sausages.

The assumption is that being a critic requires no special ability to write, no particular expertise, and, even, no particular intelligence - and this is so evidently the case that it doesn't even need to be tested. I say assumption, but it's a bit more than that; it's the way we want things to be arranged. And, as Mr Norman would say, why not?

Blair's unsentimental commitment to Europe



DONALD MACINTYRE

Britain finishes its presidency of the European Union more at ease with Europe than when it started

THE SIX-MONTH British presidency of the EU hasn't been the smooth run ministers expected when it began. The beginning of the end of the beef ban is a welcome prize at the end. But the handling of the Gulf crisis left some of Britain's European partners feeling bruised and neglected.

The summit which ushered in EMU was by Tony Blair's own confession "messy". Some European egos were ruffled by the warmth of Blair's ideological love-in with Bill Clinton. And now the Prime Minister arrives at next week's Cardiff summit with a developing agenda of his own, to increase the democratic legitimacy of European institutions.

This hasn't proved easy to formulate. Blair's contempt for the European Parliament, the one body formally entrusted with the task of making up the democratic deficit, is pretty boundless, underpinned by his abrasive encounter with the more fundamentalist Labour MEPs in Strasbourg shortly after he became the party leader. Instead the internal "with Europe" summit recently convened by Downing Street concentrated on two alternative ways of giving the EU greater political accountability: a second chamber made up of senior members from the parliaments of each member state, and the possibility of a working committee of European ministers, each regularly accountable to their own legislatures.

But if the task isn't easy, there is a pressing domestic need to make at least a start on it. The second part of Blair's current European agenda, which will unfold in the few months after next week's summit, makes it daily more so. For all the ground Blair's persuaders claim to be gaining in persuading their EU partners to adopt a third way between laissez-faire capitalism and the tra-

ditional Continental model of rigid labour markets, they acknowledge quite freely now that their influence, though real, is circumscribed by not being in EMU.

Here, there is a subtle change in the air. Blair intends to do more to emphasise Britain's preparedness for EMU. This doesn't, of course, mean abandoning the rider that UK entry is dependent on the Euro's success. But even for Blair to go as far as Gordon Brown has done in emphasising how ready the UK will be if and when the economic circumstances allow will have an impact on public opinion. And he is casting around for the right opportunity to do just that.

Ministers, anyway, believe that the growing familiarity, to travellers and traders, of the Euro will help to reduce some of the alienation from EMU still visible in the opinion polls. So much so that the prospect of a referendum before the next general election cannot absolutely be

ruled out; although the scenario of a 2001 election followed quite swiftly by an EMU referendum remains very much more plausible.

For the order of the two events to be reversed would require not only a detectable shift in public opinion - not to mention, perhaps, as an extra reassurance for a chronically media-obsessed government, a softening of Rupert Murdoch's opposition to the single currency - but also enough confidence in the Bank of England that the inflationary threat had been averted to allow a real reduction in interest rates, aligning them much more closely with those enjoyed by the EMU participants, and reducing the value of sterling accordingly.

Each of these conditions would be necessary for a pre-election Cabinet decision to enter; both of them might well not be sufficient. But while it is virtually impossible to find any minister prepared to admit it, there remains just the slimmest of outside chances that the "unforeseen circumstances" which formed the one proviso in Gordon Brown's otherwise blanket preclusion last October of EMU entry in this parliament could yet come to pass.

But even without that still remote possibility, the growing proximity of a decision creates its own dilemmas. Some pro-Europeans think an EMU referendum can be won on purely economic grounds, reinforced by what are likely to be measurably faster growth rates in the EMU countries two or three years hence; and that the political or constitutional arguments can simply be buried. But Blair, by all accounts, believes that the pro-single currency campaign will not be able to pretend away the further political integration, however piecemeal, which will be the natural consequence of EMU.

To take just one example, the



Tony Blair jokes at a summit meeting with President Jacques Chirac (left) and Wim Kok, the Dutch premier

rapid increase in trans-national mergers the single currency will bring in its wake may require new forms of EU-wide regulation and perhaps employee consultation. Beyond that there are tough questions, if not about personal tax, at least about business taxes, that ministers have yet to confront. If the latter aren't harmonised, competition for inward investment will mean competition to bring tax rates down, to the extent that even a modernised welfare state could prove unsustainable. And so on.

These are not reasons for fearing EMU. But they are reasons why the issue of popular legitimacy has taken on a fresh importance. And the timing of the summit is in Blair's favour. This week, with much fanfare, Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac delivered their initiative in favour of reconnecting Europe's institutions with its electorates and of breathing more life into the idea that decisions that can be taken by the member state at least as well as in Brussels are best left to the member state.

This no doubt owes much to Kohl's nervousness about the forthcoming federal elections in Germany. But it means that Blair will be going much more easily with the grain of European opinion than he might have been even a year ago.

Blair is distinctly unsentimental about Europe. He is visibly and frequently irritated - sometimes over-irritated - by the European Commission. Britain's successful lawsuit against the legal basis of some EU discretionary spending, which came to light this week, testifies to his hard-headed approach.

There are problems ahead - not least a fight by the UK to keep its precious rebate. But Blair shows no sign of cutting back on his vision of Britain's European destiny. EMU included. And he is also, for all the ups and downs, finishing the presidency with Britain more at ease in Europe than when it started. And that, especially given a pre-election atmosphere that verged permanently on the Europhobic, is a real achievement.

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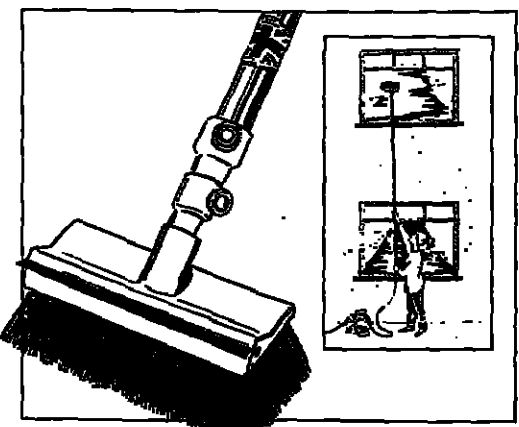
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The NHS is a prisoner of its past

THE FIFTIETH anniversary of the NHS provides an excellent opportunity for reflection. Perhaps this lecture, covering the birth and growth of the NHS, can be of interest if it helps to put the NHS into a political and historical context.

The National Health Service's founder, Nye Bevan, held fast to the principle of an NHS funded by the taxpayer, and essentially by no other source. His resignation from the Cabinet on the issue of health charges had the effect of elevating that principle to the status of a dogma.

In my view, that has been an important cause of the strain experienced by the health service ever since. It has been refused sufficient funds from the taxpayer, and has never had anywhere else to turn for money. What is worse, sensible discussion of alternatives has been made almost impossible ever since Bevan very successfully made the NHS into a party political battleground.

Rational debate has become very difficult. Every sort of change, including the replacement of old hospitals by new ones, has been presented for

political reasons as an attack on the service. It has made the Tories timid about reform - tending to shift the deck chairs around, rather than addressing the basic funding problem - and it has made Labour cling to the Bevanite dogma of a health service financed only from taxes.

That politicisation has been unhelpful to patients and staff. The paradox is that the Bevan model has led to very tight restriction of health expenditure. Britain is actually spending too little on health. That is suggested partly by international comparison. Stronger evidence still comes from the way in which the NHS has had to cut back on the availability of certain treatments.

It is very difficult today to find an NHS dentist, and whilst patients are treated effectively and, for a number of chronic ailments, such as back pain, many patients may find that their GP has little help to offer.

I am not saying that Britain would do better if it had a different health care system. My point is that it helps to raise revenue in a variety of ways. Putting nearly all of the burden on taxation makes it difficult to



PODIUM

MICHAEL PORTILLO
Extract from the
Kathleen A Raven
Lecture given by the
former Cabinet
minister at the Royal
College of Nursing in
London on Wednesday

hear. Another change is that both the main political parties now favour low taxation. And what Enoch Powell said about governments favouring other programmes such as education ahead of health remains true today. Logic and genuine concern might dictate that we should pursue every avenue to increase the monies available

for health care. But we don't, because to suggest any private contribution or any change in funding produces a hysterical reaction. People who make provision for insurance themselves have received very little encouragement.

Because relatively little health care is available in Britain, we have a disgraceful situation where how rich you are really does make a difference to the health care that you receive. Our queues and our queue-jumping are no cause for pride or complacency, nor any reason for us to patronise other countries. The shortages and inequality are a paradoxical outcome from one of the most socialist-looking systems in the world. But the answer to queues and queue-jumping is not to cut back on private insurance, as the Government has, but rather to increase by every means what the nation spends on health care.

It is perfectly possible, for instance, for government to pay for services - so that it remains free at the point of delivery - without owning those services. If the government did not own all the facilities from which it buys services, it

would not need to find capital for construction and improvement.

At the end of the NHS's first fifty years, we can be proud that people in Britain do not live in fear of medical bills that they cannot afford.

We can warmly congratulate those many thousands of medical professionals who have given brilliant service to the sick, and pushed so wide the boundaries of medical care. We can celebrate longer life and healthier living.

We are perhaps passing through a moment of national naivete or gullibility, when people live in hope that the government will solve our problems by a policy change here and a new funding initiative there.

But it is not so. The gap between what we spend on health care today and what we "ought" to spend is large, and no party is going to make it up from taxation. Health care needs extra sources of money. I can tell you this because I am not in politics; those who are, must go on pretending that they can solve the problem without changing the system.

America's heart of darkness

THE LATEST crime to shock America is the racial murder, in Jasper, Texas, of James Byrd. The three white men accused of the murder, Shawn Berry, Lawrence Brewer and John King, are alleged to have beaten Mr Byrd, tied him to the back of their pick-up truck and dragged him to his death. They are also thought to be fans of a racist thriller, *The Turner Diaries*, in which black, Jewish and white liberal Americans are assassinated, hung from lamp posts and eventually exterminated.

The *Turner Diaries* is the story of an "ordinary" white American patriot, Earl Turner, who is forced into an underground resistance army when the US federal government tries to take away the guns of God-fearing white people. The hated "Equality Police" run, as you might expect, by the usual black, Jewish and white liberal suspects, begin attacking the "patriots", provoking a race war in which the United States is eventually ethnically cleansed and White Power lives happily ever after. Along the way the "patriots" blow up the FBI building in Washington in what many Americans now believe became the inspiration for McVeigh's early similar bombing in Oklahoma. The book even trumpets its own notoriety, claiming on its cover that the FBI has labelled it "the Bible of the racist right".

But what is especially chilling about the Texas suspects is not whether, like McVeigh, they chose to act out the worst in American racist culture. It is that they, again like McVeigh, could be the boys next door, or the racists next door. They "look like normal people, don't they", according to one of the black onlookers at the Jasper County jail where they are now being held - no white hoods, no Ku Klux Klan mumbo jumbo, another example of the banality of evil. They are ordinary in the same way as the white police who beat the black motorist Rodney King were ordinary. That incident led to the worst urban riots in American history in Los Angeles in 1992. They are ordinary like the white man from Independence, Virginia, who two weeks ago pleaded guilty to burning and beheading a black man. And they are ordinary in the way that the burning of black churches in the South has become all too ordinary throughout the 1990s.

The crimes themselves may be extraordinary - big news, and utterly shocking to most Americans who pride themselves that race relations are improving. But the heart of darkness within American society is that racism remains strong and dangerous in the 1990s, even if its outward characteristics have mutated to fit different times. The words of the historian Alexis De Tocqueville, written 160 years ago, still have a peculiar resonance. In America, he wrote, "the white and the black are placed in the situation of two foreign communities. The two races are fastened to each other without intermingling, and they are unable to separate entirely or to combine".

Whatever else has changed, De Tocqueville's observation is still true, though American friends constantly argue with me on this point. They insist that race relations have improved profoundly in the past 30 years. In the 1960s, civil rights marches split southern cities and race riots engulfed northern towns. Blacks in some areas could not vote. They could not eat at the same lunch counters, drink from the same water fountains and had to move to the back of the bus. Not any more.

A black man, General Colin Powell, is

GAVIN ESLER

Racism remains strong and dangerous in the 1990s even if its outward characteristics have mutated to fit the times

now readily accepted by most white Americans as fit to be president. The rise of a new black middle class is one of the great under-reported success stories of the modern United States. So far so good? Well, maybe. What still strikes me during my time in America is how stark the divisions remain between blacks and whites.

In the area of north-west Washington - a mainly black city - in which I lived, we had only one black neighbour, a foreign diplomat. The only black faces I regularly saw locally were the postman and the check-out women at Safeways. Blacks and whites largely had different favourite television programmes, they listened to different music stations and, in the words of one black comedian, "every town has two shopping malls. The one whites go to. And the one whites used to go to".

The black middle class who have made money moved out to the suburbs - but these are often black suburbs, not mixed or white ones. The words of the Kerner Commission on the 1960s riots still seem to me to be true, that the United States risks moving towards two societies "separate and unequal, one black and one white". And even where there is a new equality of wealth, there is still the old separation of race.

All this struck me hardest during the Million Man March. In October 1996 hundreds of thousands of highly motivated young black men came to Washington to call for emergency action to help rebuild black communities. My decent, non-racist white neighbours looked at me as if I was crazy when I told them I was going to the march.

"Won't there be trouble?" one neighbour asked. A white woman friend was told that her child's playgroup 10 miles from the march would be closing. "I'm not a racist," the organiser insisted, "but maybe this is just a day when we need to stay at home." And a white reporter I know who covered the march, left his wallet in the office "just in case".

Now, frankly, I do not think any of these people considered their conduct racist. They were being prudent. After all, in the 1988 election George Bush won partly on an advertisement about a black criminal called Willie Horton freed on parole by his rival presidential candidate Michael Dukakis. When my neighbours thought of a million black men coming to town, despite their basic decency, they feared it was really a million Willie Hortons on the road to rape and pillage, even though the day passed off with minimal crime and I have felt more threatened at the average British football match.



Even liberal whites were worried by the arrival of thousands of black marchers in Washington

The crime in Jasper, therefore, fits into a new and ugly pattern. On the fringes of American society there are the racist groups who regard *The Turner Diaries* as a call to arms to rebuild white America.

They are generally lower middle class white males who see the great strides black people have made over the past three decades as a threat. These fringe racists are despised by the majority of Americans,

who genuinely want racial harmony. But even within that majority, the stresses of three centuries of racial suspicion are not far beneath the surface. For many decent people, Martin Luther King's dream still does not exist. They cannot see the content of another man's character for worrying about the colour of his skin. And President Clinton, a man who is genuinely moved to build racial harmony, set

the right tone at his second inauguration. The racism of books like *The Turner Diaries* is part of what he called "America's constant curse". Such hatred fuels "the fanaticism of terror... these obsessions cripple both those who are hated and, of course, those who hate". It is a perceptive diagnosis. The killing in Jasper was one of the symptoms. But what can be done to cure the disease?

RIGHT OF REPLY

KATHRYN GUSTAFSON



The winner of the Jane Drew prize answers the charge that it has no real validity in rewarding designers

NONIE NIESEWAND'S article about the Jane Drew prize was counterproductive and lacking in humanity. This award was set up to commemorate Jane Drew's role as a catalyst in 20th century architecture, and to give recognition to designers who illustrate innovation, demonstrate diversity, extend traditional architectural categories, and engage in collaborative work.

I am honoured to have been the winner of this award as, I am sure, were the others who were shortlisted - FAT, Martin Richman, and Jane Priestman. I feel Ms Niesewand's article was aimed at tearing us down in order to promote other designers. But why? There are many good designers, each working in their specific fields, enriching diversity in the architectural debate.

Should designers be required to become what Ms Niesewand calls "performing artists"? Is the example of Daniel Libeskind she gives - being out each week of the year, drumming up support for his building - a desired or viable option?

Of course our schemes must be explained to occupants and users, but does this have to be spelled out to assembled crowds in predetermined "acceptable" formats?

Does that really have to be the designer's role, and is this the best use of their time? What of the designers who do not present their work well, and who are not public speakers? Are they to be disregarded?

None of this talks about the work itself, which is the real issue: the content, thinking, the texture and complexity. Debate on design should have a constructive role of evolving our thinking. I believe that this is what the Jane Drew prize hopes to achieve - enlarging the debate.

New chapters for the fairy-tale

IT STARTED as a fairy tale, a heartwarming story from a more innocent era, in which a guileless young girl captured the fabled heart of a prince. It seemed to end in tragedy, the marriage exposed as a sham and the princess hunted to her death by photographers in a Paris underpass.

Yet what we are coming to realise, nine months after the accident at the Place de l'Alma, is that the story of Diana Spencer, far from ending, is moving inexorably onto another plane. In death, she has been transported into the immortal realm of myth.

Both these books, in different ways, contribute to that process. They are as unlike in appearance as it is possible to be. Beatrix Campbell's sombre paperback and Julie Burchill's lavishly illustrated hardback. Campbell's approach is historical, commencing with a brief history of the Princess of Wales and their relationship with the principality.

Her purpose is to establish the oppressive nature of the institution, and the family, Prince Charles represents.

Burchill opens with the Spencers, fixing their place in the English aristocracy - their Englishness, compared with the royal family's German origins, is important to her - and setting up the older female members of both families as malign fairy godmothers who would one day deliver an unforgotten girl into a dynastic match which would bring her nothing but heartbreak.

Diana's grandmother, Lady Fermoy, is sketched in typical Burchill prose. Her "great-est plan was just a twinkle in her grandmotherly eye as she watched the little girl Diana, whom she had made motherless, play".

Campbell's style, by contrast, resembles a social-work case conference, complete with copious references. Charles's schooldays at Gordonstoun are characterised as incarceration in an institution where he was "terrorised by its coarse, sexist, tyrannical culture", as though Campbell is participating in a debate about a child who is about to be taken into care.

The problem is not that Campbell's analysis is faulty, but that her material, like Burchill's, is so familiar. And while her political analysis is more consistent than Burchill's

Diana

FRIDAY BOOKS

DIANA
BY JULIE BURCHILL, WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON, £20, 240PP

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES: HOW SEXUAL POLITICS SHOOK THE MONARCHY
BY BEATRIX CAMPBELL, THE WOMEN'S PRESS, £7.99, 259PP



wayward blend of feminism, class warfare and gross sentimentality, she does not have the linguistic dexterity to persuade the reader that she is offering something new.

The other flaw, which goes to the heart of Campbell's book, is laid bare by her subtitle. The thrust of her argument is that gender is a wild card which periodically threatens to destabilise Britain's monarchical system. From Caroline of Brunswick to Lady Diana

Spencer - truth to tell, there are no other examples in 200 years - royal brides are investigated by Campbell with the potential to shake an unfeeling institution which does not care whether it destroys them.

In the aftermath of Diana's death, "republican" sentiment was palpable in public opinion, a claim she backs up with poll evidence suggesting that 72 per cent of the population believed the Queen to be out of touch.

FRIDAY POEM

THE A-Z OF STATUARY
BY NEIL ROLLINSON

We wait for our bus
and watch the pigeon
panic as the lights change?
It tries its wings briefly:
an old, arthritic angel,
but the wheel of a black cab
nips its rear to the Strand,
blowing its head
clean off, with a smack,
and a flurry of grey feathers.

Its circuitry
steams in the rain
like a bus map
for an unknown city.
We stare at the guts
like haruspices

looking for new ways home.
Except this is a map
for the tops of trees,
and the heads and shoulders
of the city's statues,
which the 36 obliterates for good
as it pulls in, finally?
twenty minutes late.

Neil Rollinson is among 15 winners of Arts Council writers' bursaries for 1998. We regret that on Wednesday, owing to a production error, a line from Tuesday's poem was appended to Cicely Herbert's version of Brecht's "Everything Changes".

JOAN SMITH

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THE INDEPENDENT

Dame Catherine Cookson

IN A refreshingly unbureaucratic way, Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council heads its official stationery with the legend "Catherine Cookson Country". Just as parts of Dorset are known as "Hardy Country", so areas of Tyneside and South Shields, between Gateshead and Newcastle, are established as "Cookson Country". Thousands invade the region annually to find the landmarks of Cookson's novels, which reflect the social scene at all levels in Northumberland and Tyneside, from the Industrial Revolution to the present day.

The very popularity of those novels - they have sold something like 100 million copies worldwide - assured her cool neglect from the critics, with the occasional brief and patronising nod, but her claim to be a considerable historical novelist was later admitted more and more widely. Her meticulous research, social and topographical research won respect.

Some booksellers consign her novels to the "Romantic Fiction" shelves, but, although romance enters into the lives of her personae, along with darker characteristics, Cookson has no place alongside Barbara Cartland and the offerings of Mills & Boon. That is not a comparison invidious to those highly popular offerings, but only an indication of the fact that Cookson cannot be classified specifically as a "romantic novelist" any more than as a "historical novelist". Like Hardy, with whom she has often been compared, she sets her stories almost exclusively in one region, and has yet established a universality of readership that makes her a novelist pure and simple.

Her writing is often as raw as the situations she has known at first or second hand, but her realism is not one in which the worst is taken for granted, but one that admits of love and compassion, however flawed, and with a strong ingredient of the hope that invests most lives.

Although set almost entirely in what has become "Cookson Country" there is no common scenario or set of characters from one novel to another, even in the Mallen trilogy, which is a family saga beginning in 1851 and closing in the dark days of the First World War. There is, however a streak of fatalism, combined with an unquenchable optimism, summed up in the Cookson phrase, "the pattern of life is cut, and once set, cannot be changed".

Each of her novels begins with a dramatic, often tragic situation, drawn from her researches from family hearsay and from her own family experiences, whether the setting is Tyneside working-class or that of nearby country houses, occupied by the wealthy and well-born. The first of the Mallen series, for example, *The Mallen Strain* (1973), begins with a ruinous situation for the high-living Mallen family, and allows for the introduction of fallible men and women, all with their mingled strengths and weaknesses, and with their emotions and sexual relationships examined ruthlessly yet with a restraint that presents the elements of passion the more vividly.

The central character to *The Mallen Strain* is the governess Anna Brigmore, seduced by the master of the house, Thomas Mallen, who has fathered a number of bastards. Anna comes to terms with life at the big house and watches over the master's two young wards. There is romance, tragedy and disillusionment for both wards, with death for one of them and for their suitors, but with the eternal Cookson note of hope in the re-ordering of shattered lives by Anna and the surviving ward, with the child of a turbulent coupling to be brought up and cared for.

Anyone with a lingering impression of Catherine Cookson as a "romantic novelist" would have it rudely dispelled by the controlled power of her evocation of lust, love, devotion, hatred, jealousy and violent death. Apart from that there is no definable overall formula for the novels, and the consistency of their success stems from characters and action readers recognise from their own experiences and observations of life, even if the drama is heightened for narrative effect. There is an almost fatalistic tendency to take it that the pattern of life, once set, cannot be changed, and no loose ends are left for the reader to tie up.

Cookson was born in 1906 and brought up with the adoptive name of Katie McMullen, the illegitimate child of a working-class woman in East Jarrow and a mysterious seducer from a very different milieu, described by her mother only as a "gentleman". Katie McMullen's childhood environment was a derelict region in a period of deep depression. Visits to the pawnshop, collecting driftwood from the river, picking up coke from carts, cinders, and other penny-saving devices were commonplace features of everyday existence.

She left school at 13, and worked in heavy domestic service, with a two-year stint of freelance cushion-making before going into residence as a laundry checker at the Harton Institute in 1924. Five years later, she went south as head laundress in a Hastings workhouse, where she remained until August 1939, contriving to set up a lodging house simultaneously. One temporary boarder, a schoolmaster by the name of Tom Cookson, married her in June 1940.

When he joined the RAF, Catherine moved around England in his wake, suffering one miscarriage after another, always denied the child they both wanted so ardently. On Tom Cookson's demobilisation, she entered on a new life as a schoolmaster's wife. In 1969 Tom took early retirement on health grounds, thereafter to be solely, voluntarily and delightedly her general factotum and principal support.

From her teens, Catherine had been scribbling away while training herself to the uses of literacy - a process helped considerably by her erudite husband - and the development of the craft of authorship. Even so, her first published book did not come out until 1948, when she was already in her forties. By the end of the 1980s some 50 novels of hers had been published, along with nine children's books, three works of autobiography, and a further half-dozen novels written for magazine serialisation, primarily under the name of Catherine Marchant.

Her early publishers, Macdonald, were highly excited when her first book, *Kate Hannigan* (1950), sold 2,500 copies, the entire first printing, and even more satisfied when *The Fifteen Streets* (1951) not only sold out of its first printing of 3,000, but also justified a reprint. The real breakthrough as a bestseller came with *Katie Mulholland*, in 1967, taken up by Corgi and promoted vigorously. The acceleration was sudden and dramatic from that moment on, with American and foreign-language sales developing thick and fast - a development that could be fairly described, in terms of post-war publishing, as phenomenal, especially when accompanied by the unusual backtracking - the reissue of earlier titles, selling 20 or 30 times the original printings.

The other rare feature is the unflagging recruitment of new and younger readers for Cookson books, witnessed by the undiminished level of sales throughout the world, with demand continually high for long-published novels as well as new titles. Nothing has defied the



Cookson: not a 'romantic' or a 'historical' novelist but with a universality of readership that made her a novelist pure and simple

techniques of the statisticians and researchers more than motivations for book-buying. In cogitating on reasons for Cookson's sudden popularity after 17 years of being published, and its constant growth subsequently, one can do no better than turn to the Epilogue to a pictorial memoir, *Catherine Cookson Country*. In which the two publishing personalities most closely concerned with the Cookson projection in its earliest days, the agent John Smith and publisher John Foster White, have this to say: "Catherine does not write historical plots to order... Her talent is as creator, as life-giver to real characters made to exist in our imagination. Her readers know what it is to be ensnared by a master storyteller; to be led breathless from one scene to the next."

Those are the bare bones. But what caused the skimpily educated, illegitimate product of a near-slum, plagued through much of her life by grievous physical maladies, to become one of the most popular novelists in the world? What enabled her to cope with an alcoholic mother; increasingly difficult and demanding; and with the loss of a deeply held Catholic faith?

Psychologists would doubtless have ingenious and complex answers where the truth is probably quite simplistic. It is a truth made manifest in a different though kindred context, when I went to see Siegfried Sassoon. He used a repetitive form I have heard since in various applications. "A poet is a poet is a poet," he said. "It doesn't matter what condition a man is born to, poverty or affluence, peace or war; the quality of his poetry, if it is born in him, will be constant. Environment and circumstance may colour the content and presentation, but not the quality."

Cookson was born a natural storyteller. Even before meeting Tom Cookson and learning the uses of literacy, even as a semi-literate child, she was soaking up the conversation of her elders, scribbling and scribbling in the artless, untrained way that would eventually give her books their special flavour.

Consider her account of the arrival of six free copies of her first accepted book, *Kate Hannigan*, and the way in which she weaves a colourful little story out of a mundane encounter with the baker:

Our baker. He was a very tall man, a superior type. I sometimes thought he might have been an officer in the army and had come down to the baker's van. Anyway, he had little or nothing to say. When one morning the postman brought me my six free copies of *Kate Hannigan*, there followed delirium pure and simple... Tom used to come in at half-past twelve for his lunch... the moment he saw the book his reactions were the same as mine. He wanted to show it to someone... It was at that moment the baker happened to pass the

window, and at sight of him Tom exclaimed, "I'll show it to the baker!" And on this he marched to the door and then, holding the book aloft, he exclaimed, "Look, baker, my wife's first novel!" The baker looked at Tom; then he looked back at the book, and very slowly, his eyes travelling to where I was standing, he said, "While or brown?"

Some critics have seen her as a straightforward, uncomplicated storyteller, imbued with love for the North-East, the setting for all but one of her first 64 books. But she was not so uncomplicated. The strongest affections of her life were matched in her by a counterbalance of hostility and disillusionment. Her admiration for the people of Tyneside mingled with exasperation. "The cruelty of the bigoted poor has to be witnessed to be believed," she wrote, thinking of the treatment accorded to her mother on bearing her out of wedlock, cruel treatment that washed over the bastard child throughout her early years.

What's bred in the bone they say; but in my case it was what I had soaked up during those 22 years spent in and around East Jarrow, Jarrow and South Shields. Like a great sponge I'd taken it all in: the character of the people; the fact that work was their life's blood; their patience in the face of poverty; their perseverance that gave them the will to hang on; their kindness; their open-handedness; their narrowness; their bigotry, for there were those who couldn't see beyond the confines of the county of Durham, in fact little beyond Shields and Jarrow; to many a Shields

man, a Sunderland man was an enemy; and a North Shields man would treat a South Shields man as a poaching foreigner should he cross the river to look for work.

That was part of a dissertation on her inability or disinclination to write about any other place than the North-East. In that discourse, almost as an aside, she considers the way in which her usage of North Country idiom is translated into 17 foreign languages. "How on earth do they translate 'I'll skip the hunger off you' or 'He's got a slate loose' or 'Bugger me eyes to hell's flames!'?"

A similar mixture of love and despair, devotion and exasperation imbued her feelings for her mother during 45 of her first 50 years of life. She cosseted, nursed and tended "Our Kate" assiduously, while suffering a series of breakdowns largely occasioned by the older woman's excessive and perhaps unintentionally malignant demands, and was so disgusted with her mother's drinking and increasing obesity as to wish her dead on occasions. The emotional fluctuations towards the woman who had borne her in such shame are recorded in what may well be a continuing classic, *Our Kate* (1969). In that book, Cookson takes a considerable risk with her self-revelation, a pitiless self-portrait, that leaves the reader shaken, somewhat drained, and ultimately overwhelmed with admiration - an exercise in ruthless yet dignified confession that caused one leading critic to describe the work as "a vivid, raw, tenacious existence which she recoils; at times almost more than the eye can endure".

The burning dedication to the Roman Catholic Church of the young Katie McMullen - she was at one time determined to become a nun - turned to contempt and rejection in later years. She could take the icy lack of charity in the priests who slammed the door on her when, a young woman in a strange land, she sought solace. But not for her the lapsed condition so often due to laziness, with the secret insurance clause, the readiness to put every thing right with deathbed repentance: "Only those Catholics like me who have lost God, consciously lost God through thinking him out of their lives, know what I'm talking about," Cookson quotes, in *Our Kate*, some of the crude threats and exhortations contained in a hectoring and malignant booklet, from a fundamentalist organisation, entitled *A Letter to a Lapsed Catholic*. The crudity and the lack of charity put the seal on her rejection of the faith that had been part of her life through early years. But she had already rejected the concept of transubstantiation. An outburst signalling the shedding of her last links with Catholic beliefs came one Friday afternoon:

To blazes and bloody damnation with it all... God, dogma, the Catholic Church, the Devil, Hell, people, opinion, laws, legitimacy... and fear. Bugger them all. I'll fear no more. Everlasting torment! Ha! I've had it.

When she discussed the content of the booklet with a Catholic, he said, "Good gracious! You don't take any heed to that, that's written for the rabble; it's the only way to get through to them." And then the deadly, piercing Cooksonian reaction: "I was once of the rabble."

Effectively, there were only two men in Cookson's life: Tom, her devoted husband for half a century; and Lord Chesterfield. No assessment of Cookson as a writer could be complete without full reference to Tom Cookson, to whom she was married for more than 50 years. His support and loving service from the early years of obscurity and financial straits was his wife's mainstay,

and without him she could hardly have achieved what she did. He was husband, lover, principal secretary, critic, teacher, driver, nurse, cook and much else, delighting in all these roles, happily giving up his own bright teaching career to serve and sustain the Katie McMullen with whom he had fallen in love on first meeting. He taught her much about the uses of literacy; he criticised her steadily and quite ruthlessly when he felt it necessary; and provided more back-up and inspiration than any other person or combination of persons.

There was a strong element of mutual pride in their relationship. Catherine was proud to be the wife of a highly educated man of multifaceted cultural interests - Latinist, distinguished mathematician, impeccable in his use of English - while Tom was reciprocally proud to be the husband of a woman of such varied and extraordinary talents, which he recognised before the world became aware of them.

Lord Chesterfield's *Letters* became something of a bible to Catherine Cookson. Perhaps that physically unprepossessing nobleman was transfigured in her eyes because of the passionate concern he showed for his illegitimate son - a concern that Katie McMullen had sometimes dreamed of finding in "the gentleman", her unknown father.

Cookson's talent as a poet and painter has yet to be assessed properly and in depth. I felt that she was mistaken in including poems (and some of them are poems, not merely verse) and paintings, along with miscellaneous musings, in that handsome book, *Let Me Make Myself Plain* (1988), a series of reflections in verse and prose on her life, accompanied by colour reproductions of her paintings, which could hardly have been sent appropriate to either the poetry or the art reviewer. She never claimed the title "poet" and called her verse "prose on short lines".

No fool in business and no easy touch, Cookson dispensed immense sums to charities without ostentation or fuss, but that may be seen as something like routine responsibility in the acquirer of riches. What is not by any means *de rigueur* is the sheer human compassion that caused her, as one example, amid her own grievous physical ailments, to ring a dying woman every day for months, and to send her flowers and fruit, a poncho of the finest wool.

I believe some journalist wrote recently that Cookson would be on his short list for canonisation - a false remark that would have made the lady concerned roar with laughter, especially in view of her relationship with the Church. But, if in doing nobody any harm except her self, while bringing pleasure to multitudes, and direct, personal comfort to countless individuals - if these things matter over there among the Great Majority, she will have little need of papal recommendation, while whatever God may be can expect as astringent lecture. Let her have the last word, make her own assessment:

I am a product of the Tyneside and, cover me up as you may with the name of "Cookson", glid me over with my 38 years in the scholarly world, OBE and MA after my name, I am still a child of the Tyne whose far horizons reached only to Palmer's Shipyard in Jarrow and the sands at South Shields. And isn't it strange that from the wider world into which I escaped I have to return, like the cat to the Sargasso Sea, to die where I began among my ain folk.

Laurence Cotterell Catherine Ann McMullen, writer: born Jarrow, Co Durham 20 June 1906; OBE 1985; DBE 1993; married 1940 Thomas Cookson; died Newcastle upon Tyne 11 June 1998.

Johnny Johnston

"HALF AN HOUR of laughter beckons - every minute packed with seconds!" Johnny Johnston's compositions ranged from the fondly remembered signature tune of 1948's brand new comedy series *Take It From Here* to "the perfect singing jingle" as somebody once described "A million housewives every day pick up a can of beans and say - 'Beanz Meanz Heinz!'" The "King of the Jingles" was little known by name to the listening and viewing public, but lauded within the commercial radio and television industry.

Johnston was born John Reine in 1919, but little has been published about his early life. A tall man (6ft 2in) he served as an army major during the Second World War, afterwards forming Michael Reine Music with his partner, Mickey Michaels. He composed a number of well-remembered songs including "Don't Ringa Da Bell" and "The Wedding of Lilli Marlene" for the 1953 film of the same title, starring Liza Daniels. By the mid-Forties, Johnston was regularly employed by BBC Radio's

His first huge success was 'Rael-Brook Toplin, the shirts you don't iron'

light music department both as a singer and an arranger. His first big break came in 1948 when the producer Charles Maxwell asked him to form a close-harmony vocal quartet for his new comedy half-hour to make its debut on 12 March. With the obvious choice of a friend, Alan Dean, plus two girl singers, Terry Devon and Irene King, the foursome got the new show off to a bright start with "Don't Go Away When You Can Take It From Here". It made a swinging introduction to the new comedy team of "Professor"

Jimmy Edwards, "Master" Dick Bentley and the Australian funny girl Joy Nichols. The series ran all the way to 1959, by which time Joy Nichols had been replaced by June Whitfield, and the Keynotes themselves had changed personnel more than once.

Terry Devon left to marry the bandleader Tito Burns, and was replaced by Cliff Adams. Then he joined the Stargazers, a similar group, and was replaced by Pearl Carr, who would in turn marry the singer Teddy Johnson and form a double act with him.

The Keynotes made their first recording in April 1948, less than a month after their first broadcast. They were the back-up group to the veteran crooner Sam Brown on his Decca recording of "Heartbreaker", which became a huge hit with its cheery, driving beat. The Keynotes would remain with Decca for eight years, usually backing such top of the pops singers as Denny Dennis ("I'd Give a Million Tomorrows"), Anne Shelton ("Put Your Shoes On, Lucy"), Joy Nichols ("Dreamer's

Holiday"), Joan Regan ("This Old House"), Dickie Valentine ("Cleo and Me-o"), and Dave King, the comic turned crooner ("Memories are Made of This"). They even recorded with the Johnston Brothers, which must have been tricky as Johnny Johnston not only formed but led that group, too.

The Johnston Brothers were originally Johnston, Alan Dean and Denny Vaughan and from 1949 they too were recording for Decca. Their first disc, the theme tune from the Hollywood movie *A Portrait of Jennie*, was the start of a parade of hits: "That Lucky Old Sun", "Tennessee Waltz", "Blowing Wild". Soon, they too were backing major singing stars. They supported Reggie Goff ("Sparrow in the Treetop"), Lita Roza ("Seven Lonely Days"), Suzi Miller ("Bimbo") and Lorraine Desmond ("I Can't Tell a Waltz from a Tango").

Clearly a glut for work, Johnston now formed a third group, an all-male outfit called the King's Men, and they backed Pearl Carr in "Be My Life's Companion" (1953). The Keynotes made their first public appearance at Feldman's Swing Club in May 1948, and made their first film appearance shortly after in *Melody in the Dark*, a minor musical starring the rubber-necked comedian, Ben Wigley, impressionists Carl Cartledge and Maisie Weldon, with Alan Dean singing solo. Hardy ever off the radio, they were regulars on *Band Parade* and *Melody Time*, singing along with Gerald and his Orchestra. In 1959 came a second comedy series, *Gala Night at the Rhythmic Room*, starring a young Petula Clark with Roy Flomley on loan from his famous desert island as master of ceremonies.

Johnston made his first contact with commercial entertainment when the Keynotes sang on a Radio Luxembourg Boxing Day Special in 1948, followed later by a 26-week run supporting none other than Gracie Fields in *The Wisk Half Hour*. Bernard Braden, the Canadian comedian, compered, while they sang to the music of Billy Ternent and his Band. The ex-BBC man John Watt, no less, produced on behalf of Lever Brothers Soap.

By 1950, the Keynotes' composition changed again when Alan Dean left to go solo, and was replaced by Harry "Miss" King, an ex-trumpetist from Gerald's band. Joyce Frazer, who had replaced Pearl Carr, was in turn replaced by a bright young Scots lassie, Jean Campbell. Despite these many changes, the Keynotes were voted the country's top vocal group several times, but destiny in the form of rock 'n' roll would shortly cause their collapse. Meanwhile, however, they had made a handful of successful television appearances, from singing with Patricia Dale in *Lady Luck* to guesting on the ex-bandleader Jack Payne's series *Off the Record*.

The opening of commercial television in Britain in 1956 brought a total change of life to Johnston. Honing in on the brand new market of advertising jingles, in the first year he composed, arranged and produced 30-second singalongs for Kleenex Tissues, New Zealand Butter, Stork Margarine and "Rael-Brook Toplin, the shirts you don't iron", his first huge success which

contained no other words than those of the company's slogan.

Within two years, he had established himself as Johnny Johnston Jingles Ltd, and from his own studio, Cine-Tele Sound, had written and recorded over 500 commercials. By the time he retired, his record to date some 4,500 jingles, including one famous first, the first ever colour commercial. It featured Birdseye Frozen Peas and Johnston wrote the music. It went out at five past ten on the morning of 15 November 1969.

If one were to pick one jingle to stand as an undying tribute to the man's talent, how about this one which was such a hit it was published as a popular song:

Keep going well, keep going Shell You can be sure of Shell.

Perhaps the fact that it was sung for Shell by none other than Bing Crosby may have helped.

Denis Gifford John Reine (Johnny Johnston), composer and singer: born 1919; died London 10 June 1998.

BOBBY SAYYID

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

Property owners are afraid to rent, and tenants are the ones losing out. We need to put our house in order. By Miriam Addison

Why landlord is a dirty word

Jane Wilkins left her rented flat after two years to get married, and looked forward to getting back the £500 deposit she had paid to the landlord, to put towards the wedding expenses. The landlord refused to pay back her deposit, claiming that the place needed to be redecorated and cleaned.

Jane was annoyed, as she and her mother had spent two days cleaning the flat prior to her departure. But her annoyance turned to anger when she visited the flat a week later and discovered the new tenant already installed. "The flat had not been decorated," she said. "The landlord had lied, but I could not afford to take him to court to get it back."

A survey by the Citizens Advice Bureau this week found that Jane Wilkins is not alone. Far from it: almost half of private tenants who put down a deposit on their rented home in the past five years were unable to get it back when it was time to leave. This means that up to 90,000 people a year are being wronged out of an average £310 each. Only one in six ever get their money back.

The most common excuse employed by landlords to refuse to return the deposit is that the property was left unclean or in disrepair. However alarming, though, the CAB report is merely highlighting the symptoms of what is a deep-rooted disease that requires careful treatment, not radical amputation or sticking plaster.

The rental market in Britain is unwell. For the past 50 years it has been plagued by a series of well-intentioned but wrong-headed policies introduced to curb truly nasty excesses by private landlords who came to be symbolised by the name Tachman.

Now equally wrong-headed policies are devastating the Housing Benefit lettings sector, where unregulated landlords and agents often break the rules and tenants are officially encouraged to break the law. At the turn of the century, over 80 per cent of Britons lived in private

rented tenement homes, many in appalling squalor. In the 1950s, the Rent Acts were introduced to improve the lot of tenants and protect them from sudden eviction and excessive rent rises. But they went too far, giving tenants so many rights that most landlords, feeling the law had in effect confiscated their ownership, simply sold up instead of staying in a business that became both stigmatised and unprofitable.

By the early 1990s, Britain had 68 per cent owner-occupiers and only 10 per cent in private rentals, including housing associations. In contrast, West Germany, then Europe's strongest economy, was content with 42 per cent owner-occupation and a further 42 per cent living in non-subsidised.

Throughout Western Europe, Australia and the US people do not buy property until they are thirty-something, settled (or saddled) with families and jobs. At least a third of the population – the young and mobile – will at any time live in private rented accommodation, mainly unfurnished flats let on 3- to 5-year leases. There is no shame in being a landlord and no incentive for either side to behave badly, so letting property is a normal business and the problems so common in Britain are virtually non-existent. In all these countries it is cheaper to rent than to buy an equivalent property.

Compare and contrast with what happens here. Apart from the multi-million pound deposits swindle reported by the CAB, the market is riddled with cowboys. Last week three directors of a lettings company called Downland were convicted of fraudulent trading: they are expected to receive custodial sentences. Downland not only stole deposits systematically but stole the rents as well. The Police had 19 pairs of landlords and tenants who were prepared to give evidence in court and whose losses total hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Preying on the most vulnerable are accommodation agencies which charge innocent tenants – often foreign students and visitors – for lists of allegedly available flats that in-



Leonard Rossiter in 'Rising Damp' epitomised the landlord from hell

variably turn out to be unsuitable or non-existent. Secretary Wendy Bagshaw fell into the trap when she responded to a newspaper ad by Flatlets Ltd and paid them £310. "They gave me two addresses and the flats were disgusting. I then found a flat myself and asked for my money back but never got it."

Following dozens of similar complaints, Westminster Council obtained an injunction against Omar Hayat, the owner of Flatlets and other similar companies, barring him from charging flat-seekers for information. But the practice is still widespread, especially in London, and fines imposed in magistrates courts after expensive prosecutions are risible and deter nobody.

Less extreme cases can also be very aggravating. Jeremy Vine, the BBC's Africa correspondent, let his London flat through Foxtons and has had nothing but trouble from a tenant who simply doesn't like paying the rent. When the unpaid amount reached £3,500, Mr Vine began calling the tenant every day long-distance. Not surprisingly, he feels the agents let him down. His doleful conclusion: "Estate agents don't always care, tenants don't always pay – what a fool I've been."

Altogether too many honest people feel they were made fools of after trying to let a flat or house. Espe-

cially disillusioned are those who believe that using housing associations or local councils will guarantee peace of mind.

Paddington Churches Housing Association distributes brochures promising that "The owners have the comfort and assurance of dealing with a large, long-established and secure Association with substantial assets", and that "Your property will be handed back to you in a clean and tenable condition at Lease end".

Pearl Kavanagh needed some extra cash, so she decided to let her house in South Harrow to PCHA and moved in with her partner. When the house was vacated, Pearl discovered serious damage including a smashed bathroom suite and toilet, broken kitchen units, cooker and window. Wallpaper was torn. Light switches were hanging off walls, and light fittings gone. "The tenants left excrement on walls and indescribable filth everywhere," she said.

Unable to afford litigation, Ms Kavanagh had to accept a settlement of £2,000, which she says falls well short of the damage caused. She will never let her flat again.

Ivan Phillips had a similar experience when he leased flats to Kingston Council based on their brochure, which promises to return the property "in the condition it was given to us". In one of his flats Kingston

placed a registered methadone user, who set fire to the flat twice, causing serious structural damage. Incredibly, Kingston denied liability and told him to claim on his insurance. He, too, will never let to a council again.

These are but two examples of another crisis facing the lettings market. A growing number of landlords who let properties to people on benefit in the past have decided not to do it again. Instead, the property is either sold or made available only to those able to pay the rent without benefit.

In a recent survey by the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) it was reported that "Three out of four landlords who let to those on benefit last year won't do so now."

The problems are rooted in the same wrong-headed approach to lettings that got us into the present mess in the first place. The Government reasonably wants to tackle the multi-billion pound housing benefit fraud. But their harsh anti-landlord measures are driving out the innocent. For example, the iniquitous "clawback", a law which allows the local authority to demand rent back from the landlord if it discovers that a tenant has received housing benefit fraudulently. In addition, landlords and agents may be fined up to £1,000 if they fail to pass on information about their benefit tenants to the DSS.

AC Holdoms, a letting agent in Chingford, Essex, let a property to a tenant on benefit in 1995 for two years. In September 1997 the agent received a demand for £3,510 from Waltham Forest council for a seven-month period during which time the council says the tenant was not entitled to housing benefit.

This and similar cases caused AC Holdoms to go out of business and be taken over by Mark Kieve, who is chairman of the National Association of Estate Agents' East London branch and an ARLA council member. He is very concerned about the situation and is taking it up with politicians at the highest level.

"Until there are some significant changes in the system, my company will not do any more lettings to benefit tenants," he said. "I have my hands full trying to sort out the benefit problems of companies whose lettings we have had to take over."

At the same time, tenants are being advised by their local councils that if they refuse to leave the property at the end of the agreement, forcing the landlord to take them to court, they will be legally homeless and entitled to be housed by the council. As a result, landlords find themselves having to take expensive and time-consuming court action for no good reason. The Government says this rule does not apply to Assured Short-

hold lettings, but has clearly failed to make this clear at local level.

As a result a Chingford couple, who have been letting to benefit tenants for some time, recently served notice on a tenant to leave, only to find that Waltham Forest council was advising her to stay put until a court order for eviction was obtained. Although neither side wants to go to court, that's where the case will end. After that, they will never let to a benefit tenant again.

Sue Starr, who owns a letting agency in Whetstone, north London, finds the situation heart-breaking. "Although I advertise 'No Housing Benefit', I get over 20 calls a week from desperate DSS people looking for homes. I was a single mother myself and my heart goes out to them, but I cannot advise landlords to take them on. When the good landlords are frightened off, all that is left for benefit tenants will be landlords from hell and hellhole properties."

This all seems a million miles from the genteel world of Completelet, a family firm operating in Twickenham, where weekly rentals can easily exceed £2,000. Owner Christian Phelps avoids problems by making both sides sign a 12-page legal document, with details down to the permission to put picture nails into walls. Benefit tenants have no place in this market.

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Give me an inch and I'll make it a mile

It's all very well having summer schools to improve children's numeracy, but parents need help with their sums, too, says Diana Appleyard

THE DEPARTMENT for Education and Employment's announcement earlier this week that new numeracy centres are to be set up around the country this summer has left many parents with one burning question: can we go, too?

Maths is the one subject most of us feel supremely unconfident about. Every night when my daughter pulls out her homework books, I find myself praying that it will not be maths. At the age of 10, she has already gone beyond the kind of maths with which I can cope – you know, timetables and simple addition and subtraction. She's now into number bonds and – horrors – algebra. Show me one of those little "x" signs and I'm off.

I presume that at some time in my schooling I was taught how to multiply and add up fractions, but now I wouldn't know where to start. Ask me about the wives of Henry VIII or even how to form a glaciated valley and I'm a positive mine of information – but say "percentages" and all I can come up with is a total blank.

My daughter has been having trouble memorising her times tables, and with the eleven-plus looming next year, her teacher says she must have

them at her fingertips. So as we drive along in the car, I say, "Seven eights?"

"Dunno," she says. "Oh dear, I dunno either. 'Nine sevens?' she asks me. I make a wild guess. "Sixty-something?"

"Oh, mum," she says. "You're not helping at all."

The awful thing about maths, is that it reveals to her just how very little her mother knows. Most children tend to assume that their parents know absolutely everything, so they are amazed when they start sweating at the thought of long multiplication. Just to confuse us, they do it differently now, too – the little numbers seem to be put in different places and I find it all very confusing.

You can't pretend with maths, either – no secret nipping into the study to consult *Encarta* and returning casually with a wealth of information on the dietary habits of the Vikings or the qualities of igneous rock. You can either do long multiplication or you can't. And I patently can't. The tiny amount of maths I do retain is simply not adequate for the rigours of normal life. I find myself hunched over the counter in the bank, trying desperately to add up my cheque

amounts, forgetting a number half-way down and having to start again, whilst a huge queue forms behind me. Invariably I get a letter from the bank a few days later gently informing me that I have miscalculated to the tune of £53 – usually not in my favour.

Even calculating change is a nightmare, as I hand shovels of one pence pieces backwards and forwards. Thank God for Switch and Visa cards – at least all you have to do with them is boggle at the amount you're spending, rather than actually have to add it up.

Anything with numbers has me in a knot. Bank statements, endowment bonuses, pensions – I loathe them. There is currently a large stack of official-looking large white envelopes on my kitchen table, which promise to tell me exactly how my pension and endowments are performing. But they wouldn't – I would just glaze at the list of figures, or alternately get panicky.

While other parents were bemoaning the introduction of calculators, I was thrilled. No more adding up or subtracting in your head! But the trouble is I can never find the darn thing. So when I am trying to work out exactly how much our elec-

tricity bill should be for the quarter, I end up with a piece of paper covered in noughts and crossings-out.

The schools' watchdog organisation, Ofsted, has already identified that the fact that this country is falling sadly behind almost all of our European compatriots when it comes to our children's numeracy skills. But as a parent, it's so hard to introduce the concept of maths. Literacy is so much easier. I feel far more confident about sharing books, drawing pictures, teaching my children their first letters and how to write their name. There's no mystery to it. But with maths, where do you start? Already my four-year-old can write her name, Charlotte – but ask her to add two and two and she flings up her arms and says, "I simply haven't got a clue!" Unfortunately, woolly maths brains seem to run in our family.

So government, take note. All around the country there must be parents like me, sadly trailing behind our 10-year-olds, unable to make even the simplest calculation. The doors of the summer numeracy centres should be flung open to all of us maths-inadequates who cannot look a pension statement in the face.

and
file

**Leslie Forbes is the author of 'A Table In Tuscany' (Penguin, £12).
Next week: the essential works on Caravaggio.**

Time to shrug off the dirty mac

You won't find
porn videos in
Blockbuster,
but that doesn't
mean they're
soiled goods.

By Laurence
O'Toole

This August, several dozen high-powered scholars, as well as lawyers, legislators, health care experts, film-makers and porn stars, will be heading to Los Angeles for the World Pornography Conference. Organised by California State University, the four-day conference will look at pornography from all conceivable angles, speakers ranging from Richard Green MD, of Cambridge University, on "The Role of Expert Testimony in Obscenity Cases", to Mistress Brandy on "Bondage and Domination: Past and Present". Several feminist campaigners will appear, including Nadine Strossen, President of the American Civil Liberties Union and author of *In Defence of Pornography*, and Linda Williams, PhD, who lectures on porn movies at the University of California.

Such developments reflect the fact that a lot of Americans watch blue movies, and not all of them wear dirty raincoats. For millions, pornography is no longer a demonic entity, but something to be rented on a Saturday night in. Twenty years of video culture have seen adult films move slowly from the red light district to the adult section of the neighbourhood video store. Recently, the Video Software Dealers' Association, representing the whole American industry from Disney to porn, published a customer poll in which over a third wanted their local video store to have an adult section.

Many retailers are only too happy to oblige. On average, it takes 22 rentals of a tape like *The English Patient* for a video dealer to break even. It needs only six rentals with a porn tape because they are cheaper to buy in and can be hired at a premium rate. The logic is hard to resist. What's more, if you are an independent outfit and a major chain such as Blockbuster moves into the neighbourhood - a company with a strictly no-porn policy - then your adult stock is the one thing that may keep you from going under. In 1997, the number of porn rentals from general video stores topped 600 million in America. It's little wonder *The Economist* ran a cover story on the industry earlier this year.

Examples of porn's growing mainstream appeal finds porn stars



A decade ago, porn was considered sexist, violent and threatening to women. Many porn actresses and female film-makers beg to differ

Dave Hogan/Rea

Heather Hunter in the next Spike Lee movie, *Jasmine St. Claire* on the *Larry Sanders Show*, and Janine fronting ad campaigns for leading-edge fashion company Fresh Jive. Accordingly, *Adult Video News*, the industry trade magazine, recently declared "porno is going mainstream more than ever before".

The conference's tone will not be anti-pornography. In part, this is because anti-porn campaigners have declined to participate, but it may also be some indication of how the general mood is changing. A decade ago, the common view was that pornography was sexist, violent and represented the most serious threat to female emancipation. More recently, studies into the possible link between porn viewing and anti-social conduct have proved at the very least inconclusive. In 1990, the academics, Guy Cumberbatch and Denis Howitt, reported to the Conservative government on the

state of research and observed that: "Inconsistencies emerge between very similar studies... many interpretations of these have reached almost opposite conclusions."

Among feminists, there is a profound lack of consensus. While high profile campaigners like Andrea Dworkin argue the latter, others, such as London-based Feminists Against Censorship, and the numerous women porn actresses and film makers - people like Julie Ashton, Nina Harley and Veronica Hart - beg to differ.

And then there are the growing ranks of women porn fans. The Nineties has seen the successful launch in the UK of women-oriented porn magazines, such as *For Women* and *Desire*. Last year, American video porn had a turnover of \$4 billion, with a quarter of business generated by women consumers.

Meanwhile, here in the UK, explicit porn movies remain effectively illegal, regularly seized and destroyed by the police under the Obscene Publications Act. And then at the end of last year, the British Board of Film Classification gave certificates to a handful of graphic sex movies, such as *Batbabe* and *The Pyramid*, featuring, for the first time restrained scenes of hardcore sex.

It's this word "hardcore" which causes alarm. In reality, hardcore mostly means depictions of adults having sex. Once people realise this, they generally stop fuming. Not so Jack Straw, however. The BBFC's passing of *Batbabe* was criticised by the Home Office "in the strongest possible terms".

Earlier this year, Chris Smith banned *Eurotrash*, a company selling access to a porn satellite TV service beamed from Denmark. In a recent interview on GMTV, when Tony

Blair was quizzed about Labour favouring a "manny state", he declared that he was "all for live and let live". But not when it's porn.

These levels of government restriction are out of step with virtually the rest of the Western world, and a fair portion of the British population. A recent British Social Attitudes Survey found the public less exercised than a decade ago over representations of "straightforward, mutually pleasurable sex, however explicit it might be".

Labour has yet to acknowledge this cultural shift. Meanwhile, the police, by their own admission, regularly face difficulties securing convictions because juries at obscenity trials often fail to find scenes of adults having sex obscene. The success of *Boogie Nights*, as well as TV's unlagging *Eurotrash*, suggests a viewership unfazed by the idea of porn, and who may even be into it. The extensive range of cer-

tificated adult software videos available in Virgin and HMV, and software cable TV channels and Internet sites, suggests that porn in the UK is slowly coming out of the shadows. Last November saw the inaugural Erotica trade fair at Kensington Olympia, selling erotic books, prints, videos, sex toys, even waterbeds. Highly successful, it was followed by a second fair at the larger main arena at Olympia last month.

Although there's no sign of a change in the law, Brits seem to be voting with their feet, remote controls and modems. In contrast to the disdain which greeted the recent launch of the Euro, porn is one thing for which a lot of us are more than happy to embrace continental ways.

Laurence O'Toole's book *Pornocopia: Porn, Sex, Technology and Desire*, is published by Serpent's Tail, price £13.99 hardback.

Not in the Premier league

THEATRE
ELTON JOHN'S GLASSES
QUEEN'S THEATRE
LONDON

WEST END theatre has been quietly fretting about the World Cup and its potential effect on audiences. It must have seemed a fine idea to catch the mood of the times and put on a play about football.

The premiss for *Elton John's Glasses* is the ingenious fantasy that Watford were defeated by Everton in the 1984 Cup Final because a shaft of sunlight struck the Watford vice-president's gigantic spectacles and the reflection blinded the Watford goalkeeper.

In fact, it should be pointed out, that Elton John sported untypical small lenses that day, so the writer, David Farr, has used dramatic and sporting licence. But then football drama is never really about football. *Fever Pitch* and *An Evening with Gary Lineker* used soccer as a metaphor for the characters, even the authors' own lives and relationships.

I have never entirely bought into the psychology of the genre. It can be a case of middle-class playwrights and novelists feeling uncomfortable with writing about a sport for its own sake, and instead trying to invest it with psychological baggage it cannot easily sustain.

Elton John's Glasses certainly does the sex, soccer and sadness genre few favours. Its plot is a series of increasing implausibilities. Bill (Brian Cooley) watches the 1984 goal on continuous video loop and 12 years later is so traumatised that he cannot leave his house. His long-lost brother persuades him to do so by uttering something along the lines of "why not go outside?" His once-a-week lover turns out to be on close terms with his brother and a young girl who somehow kicked her football through his open front door.

No matter. A light farce - even one with pretensions to deeper issues - is allowed its implausibilities. What irks more is the stilted dialogue in which characters tell each other information they already know, and the mawkish accents. Watford can't boast much, but it can speak proper.

It is surprising to find the well-respected Farr, and director Terry Johnson, a forerunner of note, behind this lumbering comedy. Conley, Will Keen and Gabrielle Glaister manage to invest a depth of feeling and sadness that the script does not deserve. But not even a Premiership cast can rescue a second-division play.

DAVID LISTER

Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. To 26 September (0171-894 5040). This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

GIVE FOOTBALL THE RED CARD



GWYNETH PALTROW
SLIDING DOORS
STILL THE HOT TICKET

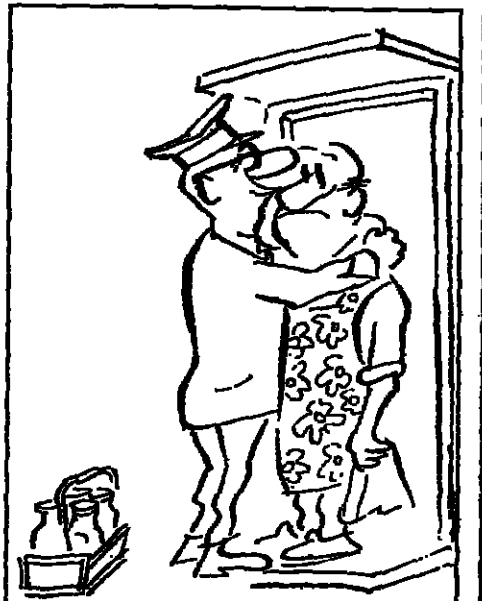
DOORS STILL OPEN



CLASSIC CARTOONS

MARTIN PLIMMER PRAISES LARRY'S
'MAN IN APRON'

IN 1987, when this cartoon appeared in *Punch*, *Larry's Man in Apron* ventured where no man had gone before in a daisy-patterned apron. He was a pioneer, scratching his head with the cheese grater and doing battle with hostile ironing boards. But he was never less than a man, even when being snogged by the milkman: he approached housework with a mixture of masculine and ingenuity. Larry (real name Terence Parkes) had been starved to become a distinguished illustrator, but he larked about too much at art college and made us all laugh instead. His sense of absurdity is spot on and though his style eschews most outward niceties, he can delineate a world of complex internal upheavals in the single line of a mouth. Now he is 70, and his original drawings fetch £400 at Chris Beetles' Mayfair gallery (0171 539 7429), where an exhibition, 'Larry - Drawn at the World Cup', opens on 23 June.



A suitable case for treatment

FROM THE incisive opening chords of Julian Philips's introductory music, the Almeida's energetic revival of *The Doctor's Dilemma* shows it means business. A standard production would open with the leisurely rise of the curtain upon the comfortably appointed consulting room of physician Sir Colenso Ridgdon, but this theatre has no curtain. More to the point, Christopher Oram's austere set presents double doors bearing down upon a massive table and enough chairs for the cast and no more. This production favours hard-won argument over soft furnishings.

Like many of Shaw's plays, *The Doctor's Dilemma* is neglected. Even the reviews of the original 1913 production did

not consider it to be his best work, but director Michael Grandage makes a strong case for it. The opening scene is littered with doctors, from the qualified (Bernard Horsfall is witty and touching as the eminence gris) to the quacks (Martin Jarvis is a splendidly preening surgeon who outlandishly ascribes every known condition to the hitherto unknown "muciform sac" which he will swiftly remove for the right fee). Wisely, Grandage peppers the dangerously verbose opening debate with comedy and bowls along at a lick so that the crux of the play arrives with the pace up and running.

The action pivots around Louis Dubedat (the suitably reptilian James Callis), a gifted young artist who is dying of

THEATRE
THE DOCTOR'S
DILEMMA
THE ALMEIDA
LONDON N1

tuberculosis and whose fate rests in the hands of Ridgdon, newly knighted ostensibly for his research into the disease. Ridgdon, however, is torn. His dilemma appears to that given limited resources, should he save the genius or his colleague, the hardworking and penniless physician to the poor, Blenkinsop (Galeful Robert DeMeyer)?

Matters are further complicated and dramatically strengthened by the fact that Dubedat proves to be morally dubious, to say the least.

Puffed-up Bloomfield Bonington (Tony Britton) is horrified by Dubedat's lack of honour. "Let him take his case to the Brompton Hospital," he pontificates. "They won't cure him but at least they'll teach him some manners." Furthermore, Ridgdon has grown infatuated with Dubedat's wife Jennifer, who is blind to her husband's true character.

Shaw's satirical spin on morality (and not just of the medical profession) sounds like the central subject. However, Ridgdon's ultimately fatal decision is clouded with self-interest and the fall-out from that turns out to provide the real meat. Grandage refuses to take sides with the characters and further energises things by encouraging actors of intensi-

ty and poise to make flesh what could, in lesser hands, prove tiresome. This is particularly true of Victoria Hamilton as Jennifer. She convinces you of the depths of her passion which inspires Ridgdon's dangerous obsession and drives the play to their climactic confrontation.

Over the course of the evening, Ian McDiarmid's impressive Ridgdon visibly pales into a shadow of his former self. He is eaten away by his dishonesty which shrouds a bitter truth. It is a tribute to a fine production of an intriguing play that Shaw's final compromise should seem so resolute. To 27 June at the Almeida Theatre, London N1 (0171-359 4404) and touring to 6 Aug

DAVID BENEDICT

Trains, planes and traffic jams

The new Heathrow Express rail link proves breathtakingly quick – but traffic to the train is as slow as ever. By Nonie Nieswand

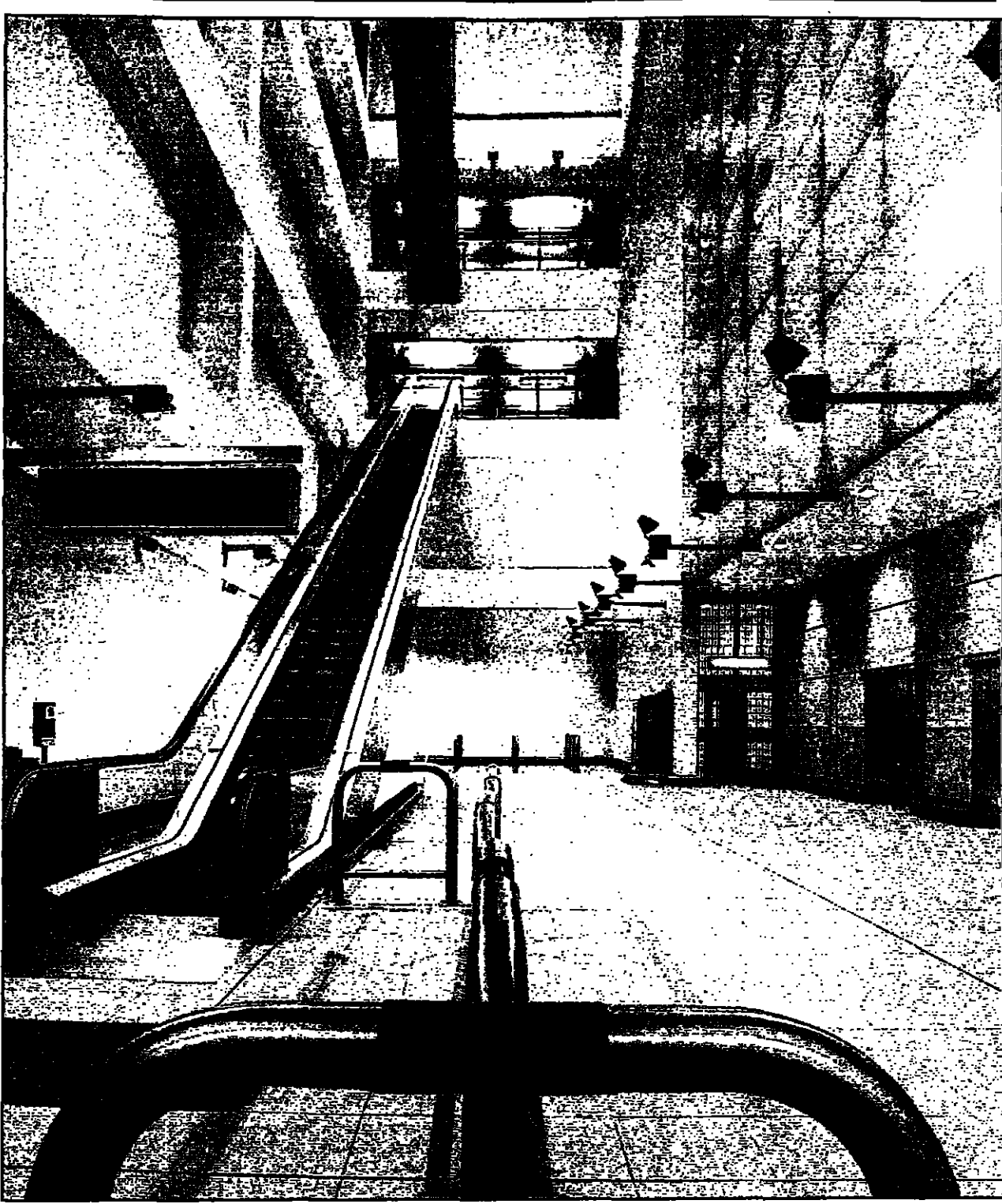
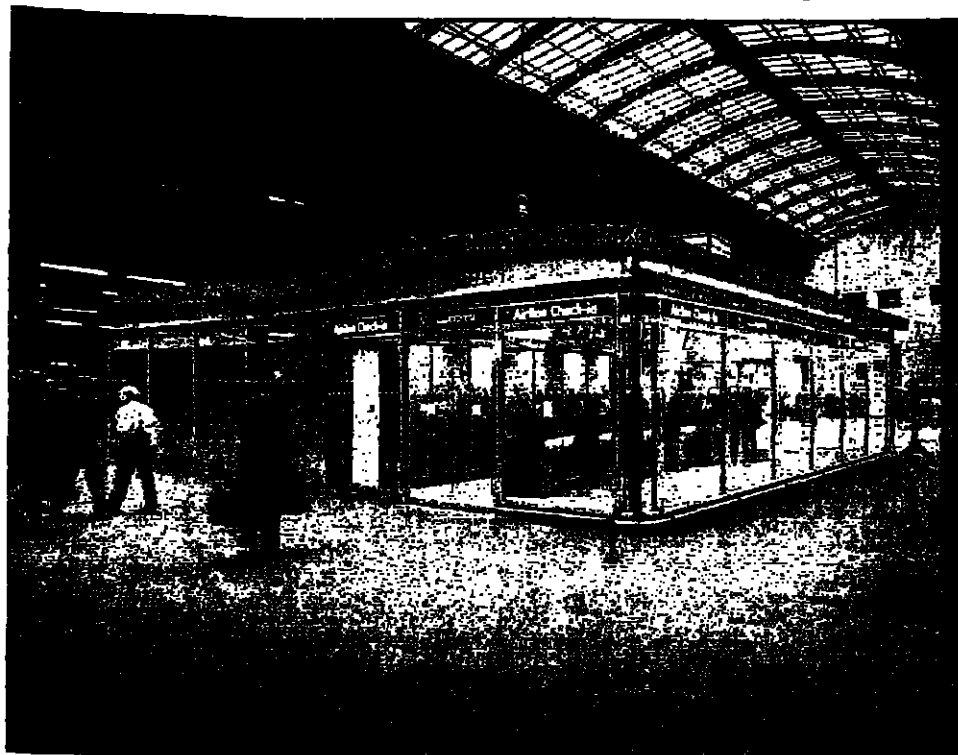
IF IT wasn't for the washlines and West London semis whizzing past, you'd think you were on a plane. The new Heathrow Express rail link service from Paddington to Heathrow Central, which opens officially on 23 June, is so fast that it gets into Terminals 1, 2 and 3 in just under 15 minutes, with another five to Terminal 4. The bad news is that getting into, or out of, Paddington from the centre of London still takes at least half an hour, by cab or underground. And that's just the start of your journey.

British Airports Authority's called in corporate designers Wolf Olins to advise them and build life-size sections of the train and the station at Heathrow to make sure it was seamless. The project has cost them £450 million.

Meanwhile, Railtrack began a £60 million restoration programme at Paddington with architect Nicholas Grimshaw, to make their beautiful Brunel station fit for 21st century travel. Though no-one will admit it, BAA and Railtrack are pulling in different directions, as one look at their stations and rolling stock shows. Stepping off the train at Heathrow Central is like going into a laboratory. There is the milky whiteness of back lit glass, and concrete cladding to great curves along the tunnel walls. Rob Wood, the architect Wolf Olins head hunted from the Jubilee Line team, has turned an old tunnel into a cathedral-like space to lift passengers up into the terminals as though taking off into space via escalators and lifts. No atrium on the top, however, but foundations for a seven storey hotel instead.

Rail Track has faced the challenge of turning Brunel's engineering masterpiece into a functional station for the 21st century. Increased passenger volume and high speed trains both above and below ground need more than a glorious shed. Nicholas Grimshaw, who is good at balancing the historic old with the new, has designed a mezzanine at the back of the station to house more shops and restaurants. A glass partition creates a new waiting area without too much architectural interruption. Meanwhile, everything has changed places, from WH Smith to the ticket office, and Paddington swarms with confused commuters.

When Tony Blair swooshes there on 23 June from Heathrow, he should take the nearest underground to Downing Street from Paddington to experience coming down to earth. The express aims to carry 17,000 passengers a day, six million a year, and reckons to take 3,000 cars off the roads around Heathrow. So expect a lot of road rage around Paddington.



Top left: The Paddington terminal, designed by Nick Grimshaw, mixes old and new. Below: on the train itself. Right: Heathrow's milky white welcome, designed by Rob Wood

Glynn Griffiths

TEST RIDE

FOR THE fortnight before the opening on 23 June, you can take the Heathrow Express for half price – £10 return instead of £20. So I took the trip:

7.30 Catch a black cab to Paddington. A Private Eye bore of a cab driver ear bashes me on Westminster Council moving the taxi rank which causes long queues because they can't turn right out of the station. "At this hour, it'll take

you 30 minutes" he says. **7.57** Arrive at Paddington station 57 lighter. The place is a tip. Six check-in counters for the Heathrow Express are bright and shiny, with Pepsodent smiles from staff. Trains run daily from 5.10 am until 11.40.

7.59 I ask if I can check in my bag now rather than at the airport but, unbelievably, they have no baggage handling facilities, so only passengers with hand luggage can check in at Paddington. Railtrack have

built a baggage tunnel underneath the Heathrow Express platforms but it won't open until the end of next year.

8.03 At least the train is good news. Made in Spain by CAM with Siemens, its wrap-around glass and snub nosed front is more Noddy than Flipper. "The more nose you have, the more passengers you lose," says Dutchman Siep Wijnsebeek from designers Design Triangle in Newmarket. Like a very good Brie.

8.05 Stepping inside the train is like going aboard a plane: air-liner shaped seats in pairs, flat-fronted wall mounted TVs. Nothing is hidden. Even the doors between coaches are glass. But the designers get airmiles for taking out great blocks of seats in some carriages for wheelchairs.

8.07 The train doors silently close and it just flies out of the station.

8.20 The train divides with three coaches stopping at

Heathrow Central for terminals 1, 2 and 3 and the front coach rolling on to Terminal 4. Stepping out into Heathrow Central is like walking inside a milk carton. The glass ceramic tiles can be removed for cleaning graffiti. On either side of the lift shaft are perforated metal screens back lit and from the front to make a theatrical veil. "It's a great gateway in to Heathrow, let down a bit by Paddington," says Kevin Murray, a town planning consultant from Glasgow. But he

thinks Stansted is a good alternative because the planes land on time. "What you make up for in time on the ground here, you lose in the air in a stacking pattern over Heathrow."

8.35 At the gate of the International Departure lounge. Just 28 minutes from Central London to a passport control. It takes me an hour from Camden to Canary Wharf to get to work at The Independent.

What will the Scottish parliament look

Competing designs for the Scottish Parliament are focusing on one aspect to the exclusion of all others

THE QUEST to find the architect to build the new Scottish Parliament has turned into a beauty contest centred on debating chamber designs from the five short-listed architects. It is precisely what the Scottish Office, which organised the talent contest, didn't want to happen when it sent around the country what

Donald Dewar, Secretary of State, calls "visualisations" by the architects.

The Scottish Office asked for ideas about developing the site, which is at the eastern end of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. Public access, road routes and landscape gardening interest them as much as

attitude. It was all very high minded. Nothing so basic as materials let alone scale models, plans and elevations.

However, from the day the exhibition of five presentation boards opened at the Royal Museum in Scotland, attention focused on the debating chamber (see pictures

below) which means so much to the Scots after 300 years of Westminster rule. Inevitably, the most thoughtful of the visualisations, with complicated sources and imagery, by Miralles, didn't come off very well, which is why it hasn't had a good press yet. How the architects deal with the old Queensberry House,

which will remain on site, is another important issue.

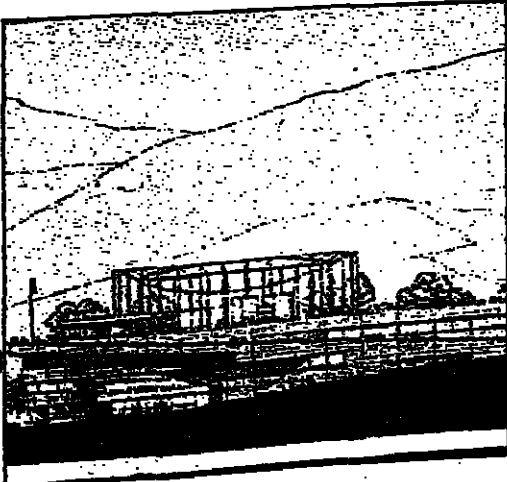
How can people vote for the best design of the Scottish Parliament when there isn't one? At this stage, the debating chamber is no more than a twinkle in the architect's eye. Yet the selection committee has promised to take public opinion into

account when they announce the winner in the first week of July. But what will the public make of the "visualisations" that are circulating in Scotland?

Asked by *The Independent* if a round debating chamber was important to prevent, at least visually, the confrontational taking of sides

Donald Dewar said: "We're not prescriptive, though we do want to get away from the served ranks of politicians in opposition at what is literally a sword's length apart in Westminster. But it doesn't have to be a sphere."

NONIE NIESWAND



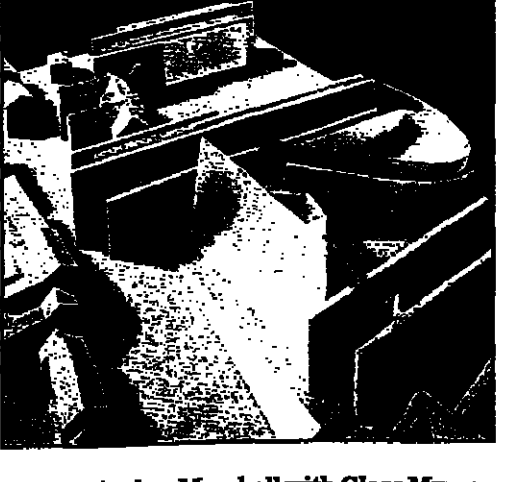
Rafael Vinoly with Scottish firm Reich & Hall

The Chamber: Quickly dubbed the gasworks for its transparent circular form, this building reveals instantly what the architect calls "democratic transparency". Flying saucer of a roof is a contemporary interpretation of the structure designed by John Scott in 1637 for the Parliament Hall. **Materials:** concrete and steel with grey limestone exterior walls with insulated glass. A ramp encircling the main building leads to a rooftop Queensberry House. Remove old walled courtyard that is the main public access into the building. **Reactions:** What captured the imagination of Donald Dewar was the theatrical proposal to have a debating chamber that could slide away into the floor to create a piazza for something else.



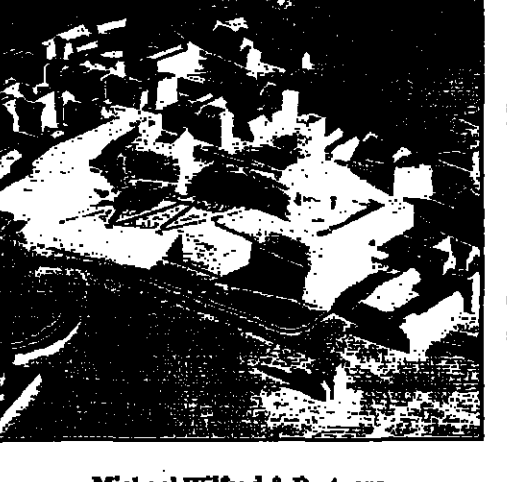
Enrique Miralles with RMJM (Scotland) Ltd

The Chamber: An upturned Orkney boat is the inspiration, with lakes pumped from the already low, watery site. "The boats' form floating the landscape should be part of our project," says Miralles, who proposed having the shell like chamber pre-fabricated in sections in a Scottish boatbuilding yard. **Materials:** Turf bricks paving the areas between the building and the land, stone cladding for the parliamentary office with wooden window frames and laminated wood panels. **Queensberry House:** Becomes the library and a cloistered garden for meditation. **Reactions:** While refusing to identify which one, Joan O'Connor of the Selection Committee admits one scheme "pulls at my heart strings". This is it. Professor Andy MacMillan, also on the committee says "it settles as lightly on the landscape as leaves".



Denton Corker Marshall with Glass Murray

The Chamber: A transparent, perforated metal veil that folds in on itself, solid at the base but progressively more perforated as it reaches its upper level. Natural light will bathe the chamber's translucent ceiling and at night the lights will beam out through the perforations. **Materials:** Perforated steel cladding with a glass lining and roof. Queensberry House: Leave it, and use its stone walls "as abstracting elements for the MSP offices to form an integral part of the reading of the Parliament without compromising the civic qualities of the complex." **Reactions:** "Scotland's own Guggenheim" from one of the juniors in the Scottish Office.



Michael Wilford & Partners

The chamber: An amphitheatre tucked low in the site with a ramp rising gently over it and, above, a glass lantern which allows viewers in the public galleries to look down upon the parliament at work. Outside a large screen beams talking heads out live. "Transparent democracy," Michael Wilford calls it. He and partner Laurence Bain have arranged buildings with a different geometry and of varying heights all along the site. A high square tower continues a series of towers along Royal Mile. **Materials:** Stone, steel, cement and glass. Queensberry House: Restored to its 18th century grandeur to provide a transitional overlap of the Holyrood and Old Town building patterns. **Reactions:** Democracy in the digital age with parliament live on the big screen.



Richard Meier & Partners with Keppie Design

The chamber: Responds to the form of the ancient Scottish circular fort, known as a broch. The cross bracing on top is like St Andrews cross for the SMPs to look up to. "The building must command respect through its physical form," Meier believes, and it should represent the goals of open government to the world. "Architecture at its best is an integration of human scale with civic grandeur." **Materials:** Stone quarried in Scotland, left rough or honed for different effect. Lots of glass. Queensberry House: The forecourt becomes a landscaped garden with the MSP's garage below. Meier says he is committed to preserving the best of Scotland's architectural heritage. **Reactions:** This is the one everyone was waiting for, from the man behind the £1 billion Getty museum in LA.

Houses made for parties

Life in an Irish Georgian home was cold and uncomfortable but great when you had friends round. By Clare Boylan

NO one described the Irish Georgian country house better than the Anglo-Irish novelist Elizabeth Bowen: "Each house seems to live under its own spell, and that is the spell that falls on the visitor from the moment he passes in the gates. The ring of woods inside the demesne walls conceals, at first, the whole demesne from the eye; this looks, from the road, like a *bois dormant*, with a great glade inside. Inside the gates, the avenue often describes loops, to make of itself more extravagant length... one takes the last reach of the avenue and meets the faded, dark-windowed and somehow hypnotic stare of the big house."

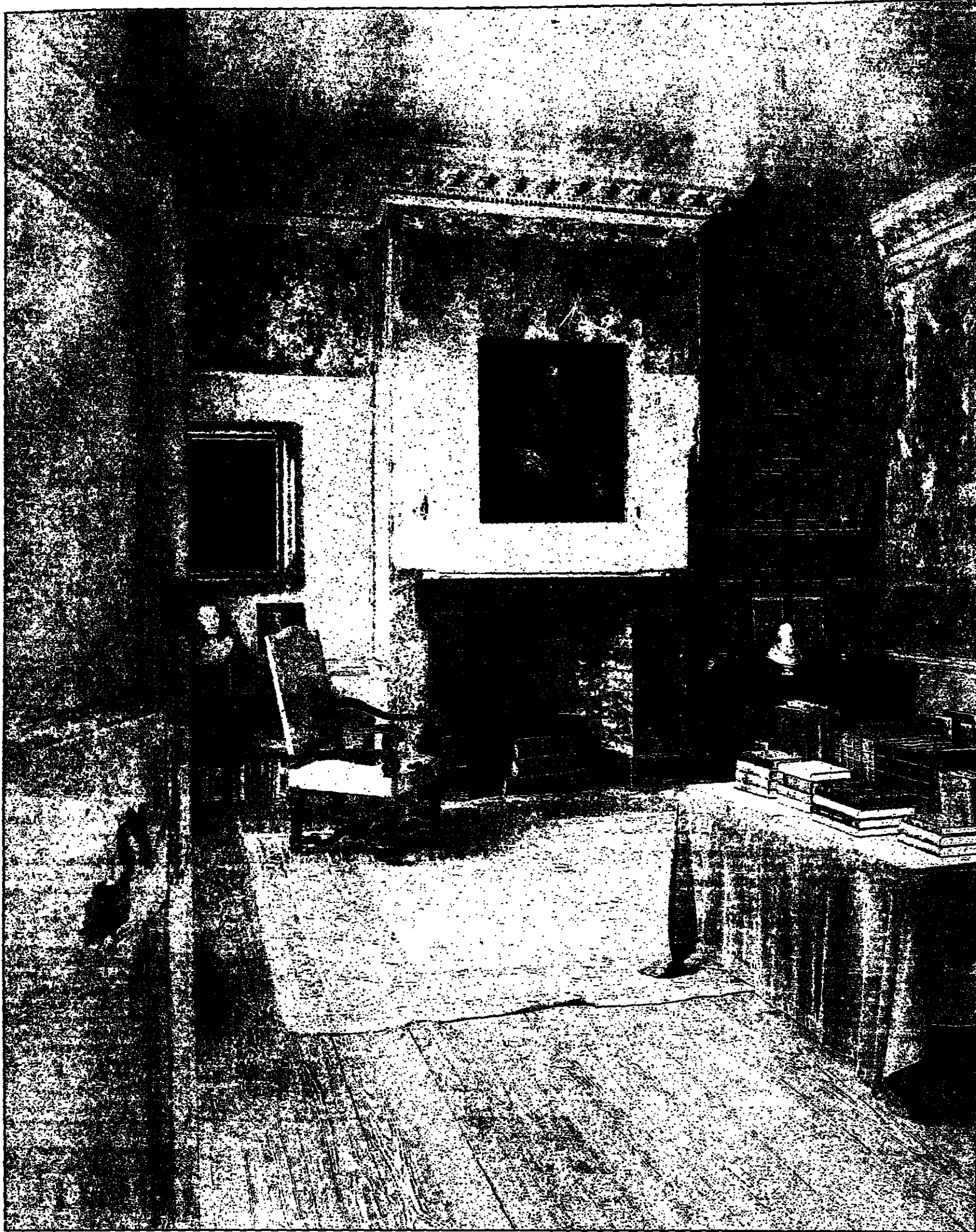
The ghostly remnants of Ireland's brief period of architectural glory today consist largely of handsome gateways in remote parts of the country, with long overgrown avenues leading to nothing. The remaining houses, in town and country, lovingly preserved and restored by impoverished owners or conservationists, are currently being snapped up at huge prices by millionaires and pop singers from overseas. Perhaps this is not as unsuitable as it sounds for the great houses of Ireland were, as the late Molly Keane put it, "houses built for parties".

The Irish Georgian house differed from the English one in precisely that respect. Both the English residents of the Dublin Georgian townhouses and the Anglo-Irish owners of the country houses viewed Ireland as a glorious playground. The occupants lived for parties, hunting, shooting, fishing.

Stella Tillyard in her book *Aristocrats* describes the big Irish house as "a voracious maw, consuming huge numbers of animals, hundreds of tons of fuel and dozens of grocery consignments". Most of those groceries were, incidentally, imported from London, including Limerick bacon, which had to describe a boomerang manoeuvre before arriving under its silver dome on the Irish breakfast table. A favourite dinner party speciality was peacock pie actually made with pheasant but the pie's exquisite namesake was slaughtered so that its head and feathers could adorn the dish. Great houses, such as Castletown and Carton employed more people than a linen factory and became the biggest single employers in Ireland next to the army and the navy. With a regular staff of up to 100 (some houses employed a man with rake full-time to comb foot prints from the gravel) for offices, wash-houses, stores, hot-houses, ice-houses, coal-houses, bake-houses, potting sheds, stables, breweries, granary, tannery and kitchen garden, not to mention the house itself, this figure could rise to double that when the house was full of guests for seasonal activities which included picnics, tennis and cricket in summer and shooting, hunting and balls in winter.

It is almost certain that the Irish country house concerned itself more with show and less with comfort than its English counterpart. "Beauty, taste, squalor and discomfort," is how Annabel Goff-Davis characterised Ballinacourty, her grandparents' Georgian house in County Waterford in her memoir, *Walled Gardens*. In a letter to a friend, Dorothea Herbert wrote of her activities in her Irish mansion in the snowy winter of 1783: "...sat wrapt up in great coats for 47 days in two parlours." A century later one Henry Herbert almost lost his brand new English bride when she discovered that the only sanitation at his Irish seat, Cahirmane, consisted of a row of outdoor privies approached by a path through wet laurels. A man with an umbrella had to be employed to escort her to and from her toilette.

Even the most magnificent classical houses with their high, stuccoed ceilings, Adams fireplaces and flying staircases, print rooms and parklands were constructed more for show than comfort. Castletown House had 90 hearths, which consumed annually three hundred tons of



The library of a Georgian townhouse in Dublin. From *Irish Georgian* by Herbert Ypma; photographs by René Stoeltie (Thames & Hudson £16.95)

coal, as well as a small forest of trees, but the plumbing was a beast and the rooms rarely more than tepid. Combinations were kept on beneath hallways and overcoats worn in the hall. At Elizabeth Bowen's country estate, Bowen's Court, the servants played handball in the corridors to keep warm.

In spite of these modest economies, most of the landed gentry were living beyond their means, mainly because of the

absurd standard of competition for the most elaborate gardens and ceilings (the more baroque of these being executed by the Italian La Francine brothers, whose stucco was de rigueur and whose occupation earned them the nickname of the Flying Francinini). Many landowners were already in debt when the great famine dealt a crippling blow, followed by rent strikes organised by the Land League. Land Acts imposed by a newly-formed Irish Free

State government involved compulsory purchase of most of their acres. By the 1920s, the land had gone and many of the young men been killed in the Great War, the beloved houses continued to be run with the help of a single kitchen maid by impoverished but valiant daughters. The Georgian townhouses, too, fell into decline. Henrietta Street, on the north side of Dublin, once the most sought-after address for bishops, earls and viscounts, lost many

of its most illustrious residents after the 1801 Act of Union dissolved the Irish parliament and deprived them of their excuse for living in Dublin. By the time Michael Casey, a Georgian enthusiast, fell in love with a crumbling four-storey gem in 1974, he found that there were 36 families living in dismal conditions under the one roof.

"Big houses that were begun in glory were soon maintained only by struggle and sacrifice," wrote Elizabeth Bowen, who

added: "It is, I think, to the credit of big house people... that, with grass almost up to their doors and hardly a shpence to turn over, they continued to be resented by the rest of Ireland as being the heartless rich."

It is ironic, too, that the Irish persisted in viewing the houses as symbols of colonial oppression when they were in fact, Irish built treasure-houses of Irish crafts. Their appetite for beautiful native artefacts nurtured a renaissance in Irish arts and crafts, including glass making, linen weaving, silver engraving, wallpaper staining and mezzotint engraving, and the technique used for *toile de Jouy* fabric was in use in Dublin before it was officially invented in France. The gradual vanishing of Georgian Ireland has generally been attributed to Irish rebels who burnt out the big houses during their struggle for independence. In fact, only 200 of the 2,000 big houses standing in Ireland at the turn of the century were fired, yet only about 150 houses of importance remain standing today. The real culprits were an indifferent administration who acquired and neglected many of the houses, refusing to acknowledge these true Irish treasures as a part of the national heritage. The Irish electricity board destroyed the longest Georgian terrace in the British Isles on Fitzwilliam Street to build their new offices, having cannily called in an English architectural expert who pronounced them "just one damn house after another". The particular tragedy of this is that Dublin was one of the few European cities to have escaped bombing during the war, so that until eroded by slum dwelling and careless planning, all of the city's Georgian terraces had been perfectly intact.

Preserving the remaining houses has been left to tireless conservationists like the Honourable Desmond Guinness, who, with his wife Mariga, founded the Irish Georgian Society and, with a handful of helpers, revived dying beauties such as Castletown and Carton. Mariga, a German princess by birth, became celebrated for her talent for creating style with almost no money. Backed up by Desmond, who declared with authority that "a certain amount of shabbiness is an appropriate characteristic of an old house in the country, particularly Ireland", she might have invented the term "shabby chic".

Some descendants of the ascendancy continue to struggle for survival in their big houses, many by opening their homes to paying guests. The latter are now being plagued by local authorities demanding a quantity of fire escapes and exits ruinous to architectural integrity. Another threat comes from organised gangs of thieves and kidnappers. In 1974 the late Earl and Countess of Donoughmore were kidnapped from their seat at Knocklofty in County Tipperary by an IRA gang, to be ransomed in exchange for prisoners. Driven blindfold into the night, they later declared that they had had "a very exciting drive". The octogenarian Kitty Clements, asleep in her big house at Killybeggs in County Kildare, was surprised by thieves who stole 22 paintings from the drawing room where, it was later remarked that they had hung undisturbed since the room was redecorated by the 2nd Earl of Leitrim at the beginning of the 19th century. Today this kind of raid has become so regular and so well organised that Irish country house owners have formed themselves into an organisation to tip each other off about suspicious callers and to lobby for changes in the law. In the meantime, if a burglar trips over the Aubusson while making off with the Ormolu, it is the house owner who will be sued for damages, so some householders sleep downstairs on the sofa with a rifle clutched for comfort. Others sell up to the highest bidder.

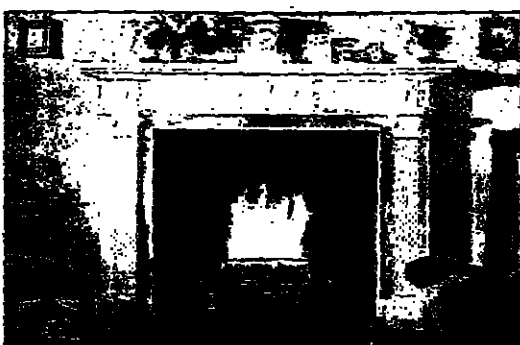
No doubt when the millionaires take over the squalor and discomfort will be a thing of the past and the plumbing will be non-pareil. But what of the beauty and the taste? It remains to be seen.

Clare Boylan is a novelist and short-story writer. Her most recent novel, *Room for a Single Lady*, is published by Abacus.



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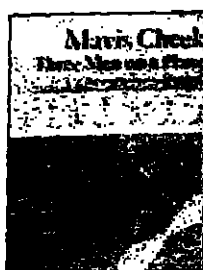
SILHOUETTE PICTURE

£110 (framed), from Artefact, 36 Windmill Street, London W1 (0171 580 4878)

Artefacts to recreate the Georgian look, chosen by Ros Ryan Shaw

The profound, professional journey of Peter Pryor

Living in a minimalist room: an extract from *Three Men On A Plane* by Mavis Cheek (Faber £9.99)



PETER PRYOR sat in the cool, white loft space and waited for the cafetière to brew. He liked delayed gratification and would not open his post until the coffee was ready. He enjoyed being aesthetic. Among the post was a letter from Daniel, so he felt quite impatient. What car had the boy bought? He looked at his watch. Another two minutes before aromatic perfection.

To pass the time he drew delicate doodles on a plain white pad set exactly square to the

shiny white German table top. He doodled curlicues and devices and decorative conceits - an acanthus leaf surrounded by a swan's neck, an initial P intertwined with another P by means of a rose garland - the baroque designs he used to play around with when he first graduated. Before he became an ardent minimalist and sold himself to his future clients as plain, plain, plain.

He looked up with pleasure at the flat white-painted canvas he had just purchased. Smooth

as a baby's bottom. Just the odd flaw here and there in the smoothness to show the painter's hand. Saatchi bought the others. He smiled more broadly. Good company to keep. He poured the coffee, which was almost black, into a white cup and added no sugar, though he craved it. He took the first sip. And then he turned to the pile of post. He had to hold the envelopes some way away from his face now, to focus. A change that he did not like. He made a note to see his oculist.

He poured more coffee from the envelope he removed the payment for one of his accounts. The Swedish heiress who wanted a cubic home. No doorknobs, no skirting, no nothing. Easy money. He had created that environment in one form or another for the last ten years. Even to designing the extension to the Shoreditch Gallery in the same way. Caused quite a fuss when no one was sure how to get in or out of the lavatories. But they learned. He could almost do the

design sleeping nowadays. In fact, sometimes it felt as if he were sleeping. To Simplify Your Environment is to Simplify Your Life was his philosophy. Pamela, who had once been so admiring of him, said "Oh, bollocks" to that. He opened another envelope, took out another cheque, this time from a delighted American couple. You had to peer quite hard to find the doors in their house, too.

He first conceived the Design of Absence years ago.

While Pam graduated and took a post with a fabric designer, he began his professional journey towards a creative philosophy to herald the ebbing of the age. A profound journey. One that reflected the damage man had already wrought on the world. It took many years. On the way he made a name for himself. And then, one day, he was ready. He made an announcement about it during a particularly targeted, select gathering at his then home. Which was when his then wife,

Pamela, pulled one of her funny faces and said, "Don't be so silly. Think of children, pets, grubby fingermarks. What would you do? Make everyone wash their hands before coming indoors?" On the pad, on a separate page from the conceits and curlicues, and the note about the oculist, he wrote "Call travel agent: Dublin". And then he looked around the room a little anxiously. Given the tonal qualities of matching whiteness and his 51-year-old eyesight, he was forever losing the phone.

'I think of women's shoes as a matter of aesthetics.' The novelist Geoff Nicholson explains his obsession

See a shoe and pick it up, and all day long you'll have good luck. This is a caption that accompanies one of Andy Warhol's shoe drawings, in his book *A la Recherche du Shoe Perdue*. You want to say, "No, Andy. All day long you won't have good luck, you'll just have a shoe." But what's the point trying to argue with genius?

Warhol's shoe drawings are fey yet voluptuous, a wobbly blend of the ingenious and the disingenuous, the naive and the faux naïf. They were mostly done as commercial illustrations for magazines and shoe companies, but Warhol's interest in shoes was not simply or narrowly commercial.

Pad along to the Barbican, to the exhibition "The Warhol Look: Glamour Style Fashion" and you'll be able to gaze in awe at Andy's very own "Beatle boots", enclosed in a perspex case that seems to be trying to make them look significant and "museum-quality", but only succeeds in making them look morbidly fetishistic.

You'll also see a bulging box of extremely elegant, and scarcely worn, women's shoes, collected by Warhol with the same acquisitive passion he applied to Hollywood star portraits and cookie jars. But a desire to possess shoes comes from quite a different psychic area than the desire to possess cookie jars in the shape of Donald Duck.

In his biography of Warhol, Victor Bockris says Andy was a "classic foot fetishist" but this begs a great many questions. Warhol may have drawn and collected women's shoes, but his personal sexual preferences lay elsewhere. However, his drawings of men's feet, which were his real passion, show much the same delicacy as his drawings of women's shoes. It's unusual to find someone who's equally at home with the feet and shoes of both sexes.

Men and women just don't feel the same about these things. Very few men in the world have ever had a girlfriend who has asked them to keep their shoes on during sex. There are very few women who haven't been asked to keep theirs on by a man. Admittedly there's some unisex footwear: the Wellington, the trainer, the flip flop; but these are only unisex by virtue of having become sexless. Perhaps there are one or two people who are whipped to arousal by the sight of a green welly, but if so it's just too weird to contemplate.

There are certain shared fetishistic forms, the tight, highly polished knee boot for instance, which can be worn by both men and women, but the woman looks like a hot babe in hers, the man looks like a Nazi in his. That too may be hot for some, but it's not an equivalent kind of heat.

You will certainly find some women who say, "I've got a bit of a shoe fetish." But what they mean is that they own hundreds of pairs of shoes. This is not what a man means when he says, "I've got a bit of a shoe fetish".

Some women buy shoes because they want to appear sexually attractive, but all too often it's a form of commodity (not to say shopping) fetishism rather than sexual



Go on, I know you want to

fetishism. And it's a rule of thumb, if not quite a law of nature, that at least half the shoes in these women's collections will be chunky or camp or simply frivolous. Frivolity is not one of the things the male fetishist seeks in the object of his desire.

But why the desire? Freud will tell you it's a matter of phallic substitution; a view I shan't argue with except to point out that a shoe seems a less than perfect substitute for a phallus. I prefer to think it's more a matter of design and aesthetics.

The sort of line and curve, the spatial and sculptural qualities that make a shoe look sexy, also make buildings or cars or electric guitars look sexy. Shoes are involved in the process of reshaping and customising the foot, a kind of streamlining. Whereas feet are splayed, shoes are pointed. Where feet are flat, the shoe provides an arch. Where feet are simply flesh-coloured, shoes provide the excite-

ment of diverse, exotic fabrics.

Then there are individual design features that have specific meanings: the high heel which hobbles the woman while making her look high and mighty, the ankle strap with its hint of bondage, the penetrative possibilities of the peep toe.

If some people claim to find all this mysterious and incomprehensible, others have understood the issues since we first raised our feet out of the mud, and fortunately some of these have been shoemakers and shoe designers.

We have to make a distinction here between being turned on by the aesthetics of shoes as opposed to by the name of the manufacturer. But this is meaningless, just a different form of commodity fetishism, fetishising the name rather than the object. No designer or company gets it right every time. Those wonderful strappy, high-heeled sandals with which Ferragamo made his

name in the Thirties and Forties find very little echo in the current Ferragamo range. These days Jimmy Choo is far more likely to come up with something wonderful combining classic shape, sensual fabric, and understated eroticism. Aydin Kurdash is performing small miracles at Gina, making backless boots and using elasticated leather.

And then there is Manolo Blahnik. There is always Manolo Blahnik. If you needed someone to make a pair of shoes to save your life he'd be the man. He creates that perfect balance between convention and invention, between the classic and the newfangled. He uses silk shantung, red suede, pink feathers. His shoes are delicate yet fierce.

You wouldn't be naive enough to call these shoes practical, but they're balanced, harmonious, wearable. They're not just limousine or

boudoir shoes. And if you don't understand shoe fetishism after you've seen a Blahnik collection you never will. But Blahnik is on record as saying, "I really cannot deal with sex. You see some people just make sex paramount, but I don't think it's important at all. Sex is utter nonsense, it's in your mind, yes. I have an incredible sex life in my mind. But I don't apply it to people. I put everything I think is sexy into my shoes."

I'm never sure if this is the saddest or the most sophisticated thing I've ever heard. But what I think he's saying is that life may not always be all about sex, but that shoes are. This doesn't mean that all shoes are sexy, but it means that they always make a statement about sex. A woman in a pair of penny loafers is making as powerful a statement about sexuality as is a woman in a pair of sequined stripper's shoes from Frederick's of Hollywood. It's

just that men feel rather more encouraged by one statement than the other.

A woman friend of mine was going home from work on the bus one day, and had absentmindedly kicked off her high heels and tucked them under her seat. When she came to her stop she felt for the shoes and they'd gone. The man in the seat behind her had reached under, taken them and disappeared. She thought this was outrageous, infuriating, sick, and certainly had the sense that the perpetrator shouldn't be allowed to get away with it. Barefoot she walked to the police station, not at all sure she'd be treated with respect, but she went anyway since a matter of principle was at stake here.

To her surprise the police treated her with a great deal of sympathy. They saw how disturbing this sort of thing might be to a sensitive woman, and the plod on the desk assured her that the thief wouldn't

have gone far. "They like to use them while they're still warm," he informed her, conjuring up a whole series of mental images that until then she'd been able to suppress.

They didn't catch the guy and actually I think it's just as well. I mean, if he was sharing a cell down at the local nick and one of the other inmates asked him what he was in for, well I suppose he could have said he'd been driven to steal the shoes out of aesthetic motives, or I suppose he could have said he'd heard that picking up a shoe guaranteed a day of good luck, but I think it wouldn't have gone down too well.

He might even have said he was paying homage to Andy Warhol. I'm sure that would have gone down worst of all.

Geoff Nicholson is the author of 'Footsucker', a novel about foot and shoe fetishism. His latest novel is 'Flesh Guitar' (Gollancz).

DESIGN INSPIRATIONS

EMMA HOPE, SHOE DESIGNER

WHEN I start designing my shoes for the new season, I try to imagine where they might be worn - to a party or on a train, for instance. If I were wearing them, would they give me boundless confidence so I could have unfettered conversations with glittering people and amusing poets?

Then I check out the current best-sellers on our "sell-thrus" - our sales lists, a combination of *Old Moore's Almanac* and the next Budget speech. This year it's sand suede sandals, Marie Antoinette damask slings and kitten heels suitable for dancing in fountains.

When I was in Sri Lanka, a shoe-

maker sold me a scrapbook of shoe pictures taken from 1950s newspapers and mail-order catalogues; they made me think of strappy red satin sandals for Betty Grable legs.

This summer, pale and interesting is a winner - could that be a reflection on the economy and the *fin de siècle* air of carnival: you don't have to look serious to be taken seriously...

My new multicoloured Margherita-daisy mule was inspired by Spitfields silk brocade used with Austrian stitch embroidery. My lace shoes are very 1950s and incredibly comfortable, good for your feet, and so light you don't notice that you're

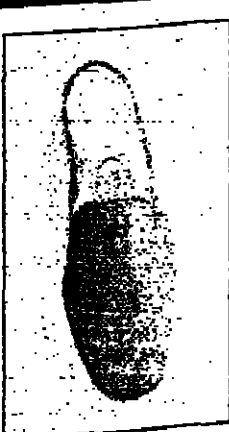
wearing them. They look very pretty cut low on the foot.

The supple, flat mules that our factory specialises in have the same relaxed feel as the slippers worn by this expensive-looking man in a smoking suit, and 1950s velvet ballet shoes by Capezio.

Emma Hope's Shoes, 33 Amwell Street, London EC1 (0171-8343 2367) and 12 Symonds Street, London SW3 (0171-259 9566). Some of her shoes will be at 'Absolute Cobblers', an exhibition of 'shoes as art' at the Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (0171-638 4141), 15 July-19 August.



Above: sexy shoe in a 1950s newspaper - the inspiration for Emma Hope's shoes below, left to right: Crossover Sandal £129, Hi Strap Court £179, Single Strap £169. Left: Syrian wooden sandal, 1900. Below left: Emma Hope's suede Beaded Open Sling, £159



Above: soft shoes on Johann Georg Ziesenis's portrait of Prince Karl Theodor von Bayern, 1757; left: Emma Hope's Slipper Mule £149. Above right: lacy 1950s Bruno Magli shoes; right: Emma Hope's Lace Court £169 and Single Strap. Above, far right: 1720s French damask silk shoe; middle right, red Emma Hope High Strap Court £179



Nice song - shame about the show

IT WAS fifteen minutes into Janet Jackson's show at Wembley Arena on Saturday when she slipped softly into the cautionary ballad "Let's Wait Awhile" the way you might lower yourself into a bubble-bath.

But when she cooed the sweet refrain "Let's wait awhile/ Before we go too far", you had to laugh. It was a bit late to worry about exercising restraint - by this point we had already seen a clown open an enormous storybook, on to which was projected a psychedelic light show that was either a homage to Pink Floyd, or an attempt to hypnotise the audience into shelling out for more merchandise; then some fireworks went off, before Janet arrived on stage perched at the top of a step-ladder dressed in the style of Annie Hall, and proceeded to dance among a platoon of funeral directors. I suppose this sort of thing is considered normal in her family.

Part of the show's problem was that it transpired to be very normal indeed.

In the first section, which culminated in a medley welding together whip-cracking funk work-outs like "Nasty" and "What Have You Done For Me Lately?", Janet proved that she has more bite and style in one of her heavily-mascara'd eyelashes than her more dotty brother has in his entire bleached-out body.

She did a great impression of someone tough when she stood in the spotlight and grimaced at the audience - or as good an impression as somebody whose personal gurus and irrigators are hovering in the wings could ever be expected to do. And her dancers were outstanding with their old-school breakdancing and their wearing of awful tracksuits.

But all this Walthamstow Market-style braggadocio was in vain because the music was bad, and the sets were worse.

Janet saved her most bewitching songs until last - the

JANET JACKSON
WEMBLEY ARENA
LONDON

lovely "Got 'Til It's Gone", which hinges on a burst of Joni Mitchell from "Big Yellow Taxi" and reclaims the honourable art of sampling from bad rappers; and the silky "Together Again", which is the aural equivalent of the best massage you've ever had.

Those numbers sparked, despite the cluttered arrangements, but on everything else the over-sized band sounded as though they were playing their instruments while tumbling down a wrought-iron spiral staircase.

What you heard was blissful compared to what you saw. Apparently, the art director and stage designer have gone into hiding after fearing revenge attacks for their part in constructing the candy-coloured nursery which was unveiled in act two. A rubbery-faced crescent moon surveyed the dancers, who were done up like jesters, puppets and sticks of Blackpool rock; it was like being trapped in the doodle-pad of a lonely 9-year-old girl-guide.

And it sat uncomfortably with later attempts to drag the show beyond its nursery rhyme mentality. On "Rope Burn", Janet strapped a gangly male fan to a chair and performed a pole-dance for him, while the video screens offered us close-ups of his dribbling mouth which went some way toward extinguishing any stirrings you may have felt.

More incongruous was "What About", which married balletic choreography to scenes of domestic violence, a combination which would bring an unhappy tang to the most adventurous palate. And when things got a bit drab, Janet resorted to flashing her bra. That got squeals of delight from the audience, but then this lot went gaga over the drum solos, so that's not saying much.

RYAN GILBEY



A rubber-faced moon, Blackpool rock, funeral directors and a clown - and Janet was in the show too

Opium from the Massive

TO DISLIKE Massive Attack is almost to admit to being uncool. They are, after all, a band so hip it hurts. Their unique fusion of hip-hop, Studio One soulful reggae vocals and soft-whisper rap originated an entire genre of music that still grows today. Their steady rise from Bristol sound system to globally recognised act is a well documented one, and tonight's show, performed in front of a packed Albert Hall and beamed out live to millions of Radio 1 listeners, is testimony to their success.

MASSIVE ATTACK
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
LONDON

A haze of purple smoke creeps onto the stage as the musicians take their places and an expectant silence fills the venue. At the front stand three microphones of differing heights, one of them lowered significantly. Horace Andy steps on stage. He has always

sneakers, is in front of the microphone for the euphoric "Teardrop".

Hearing the Massive oeuvre all in one set like this highlights their distinctive genius. Without straying too far from their original Bristol vibe, they have still managed to experiment fairly widely. For example, "Safe From Harm" ends with a co-mingling of rock guitar and hip-hop drums that was never recorded for the album version but seems perfectly obvious.

Songs such as "Mezzanine", "Hymn Of The Big Wheel", "One Love" and, of course, "Unfinished Symphony" all contain the apparently ambivalent qualities of inner-city cool and optimistic warmth, and it's impossible not to admire Massive Attack for the variety of emotions they provoke. The

biggest surprise of the night was yet to come, though. As "Unfinished Symphony" begins, a curtain behind the band peels back to reveal an 18-piece orchestra. This sends the crowd into an apoplectic state, once again begging the band for more.

And once again the band comply by ushering on Ms Frazer for a rendition of "Group 4". Towards the final stages of what must surely be the last of the 16 songs, the entire band are together on stage for the first time.

A furious onslaught of guitar and drums gathers tempo and leaves no-one seated. It's the sort of response that a band like Massive Attack can only deserve.

TIM PERRY

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POETIC LICENCE

DISSATISFACTION

THE ROLLING Stones have cancelled their British tour dates because they fear that, under new tax laws, they will be liable to pay a £12m retrospective tax bill. Disappointed fans have been told that the cancellations are purely a "business decision".

This is a business decision
Look here, chaps, I ain't fair.
It isn't us that suffer
It's that bloke over there
The one who does our hair
And all the catering walls
Who fix us up with tuck
And those guys with the T-shirts

Who have to drive the truck
And clean up all the muck

This IS a business decision
Executives like us
Ambassadors for Britain
With holdings to discuss
Can't go to work by bus
What seems a tiny fraction
Of worldwide ticket action
May cause enough abstraction
With fiscal retroaction
To put us into traction

This is a BUSINESS decision
WE don't deserve a caning

You're pissing down our backs
And telling us it's raining
We're only entertaining
With none of us spring chickens
We didn't want to mention
Angina, hypertension
The reaper's intervention
And don't forget the pension

THIS is a business decision
This IS a BUSINESS
This is BUSINESS

This is.
MARTIN NEWELL

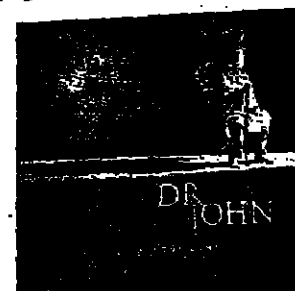
ALBUMS

ANDY GILL

ANUTHA ZONE
DR JOHN
(PARLOPHONE CDP 060)

FOR HIS best studio album since 1992's *Goin' Back To New Orleans*, Dr John returns to the swamp-woodoo of his legendary *Gris-Gris* debut, territory he's rarely revisited in the intervening three decades.

This may be due to his young British collaborators, most of whom probably consider that album as the quintessential Dr John experience. "Voices In My Head" features representatives of Supergrass and Portishead, while Paul Weller and Ocean Colour Scene bassist Damon Michella sit in for "Party Hellfire" and "I Don't Want To Know", and Primal Scream's Martin Duffy on "Sweet Home New Orleans". Jason Pierce returns the Doctor's favour on last year's spiritualized album by collaborating on "Hello God" and "John Gris", two of the



better tracks here and certainly more characterful than either of the forgettable cuts featuring Weller/OCS.

To tell the truth, the Brits don't really make that much difference to the Doctor's sound, which remains inimitably *sus generis* whoever's sitting in with him. He works effortless variations on the voodoo style while offering only intermittent demonstrations of his other modes. It deserves to instigate the Doctor's unique presence into another, younger generation, for if we must have retro-rock, let it at least revive those ancient spirits that are most deserving.



TRY WHISTLING
THIS NEIL FINN
(PARLOPHONE 4951392)

NEIL FINN - on his own for the first time - tries to find some common ground between his own songwriting gifts and the new textures and sounds that are available through samplers and computer recording techniques. It's very a brave move, but not a wholly successful one. Finn only partially solves the problem of incongruence: essentially, the two modes tend to lead in opposite directions. For a natural songwriter such as Finn, this is a contrary process, so it's no surprise that the most appealing tracks - notably the single "She Will Have Her Way" - sound more like Crowded House out-takes than openings on to a brave new world of sound.



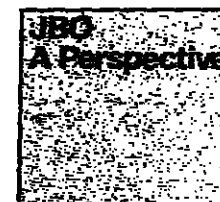
GLEE
BRAN VAN 3000
CAPTROL 823 6042

WITH THIS debut offering, Bran Van 3000 attempt a similar bridging exercise between programmed and played music as Neil Finn, but from the opposite direction, starting out with the programmes and trying to find the appropriate song stylings. In most cases, this means raps or soul-diva croonings, but there's also room for rock guitars and even a stab at country. The group is based around Jamie "Bran Man" Di Salvo, a DJ and director who used the \$10,000 he earned helming a Branford Marsalis video clip to set up a studio. Current single "Drinking In LA" is typical of the sound in the way it mixes breakbeats, loops, fuzz guitars and rap awareness. An enjoyably dotty exercise in eclecticism that deserves to be heard.



THE PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE
VAN MORRISON
POLYDOR 531 789-2

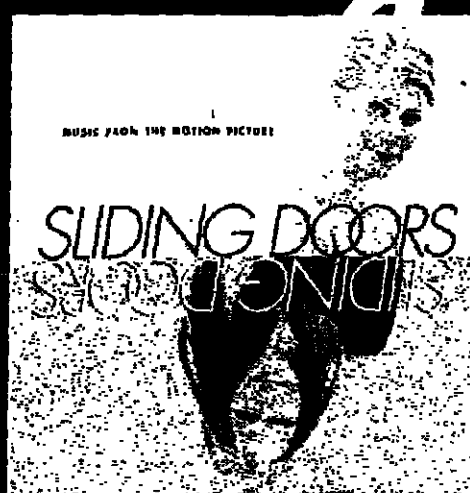
GIVEN THE opportunity to compile a retrospective compilation of unreleased Van Morrison material, most of his fans would, I imagine, want to hear something more from the sessions that resulted in *Astral Weeks* or, failing that, *Moondance* or *St Dominic's Preview*, the three albums which this grandly-titled double-CD package actually manages to avoid. Instead, there's a huge tranche of the fairly mundane stuff that was recorded during the three-year hiatus in the mid-Seventies between *Veedon Fleece* and *A Period Of Transition*.



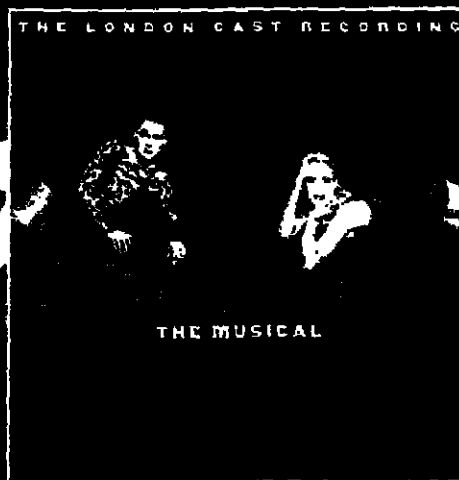
JBO: A PERSPECTIVE
1988-1998
VARIOUS
JUNIOR BOYS OWN JNR 1001782

THIS RETROSPECTIVE of Junior Boys Own output over the last 10 years serves virtually as a potted history of the acid house sound. It starts right out on the fringes where Eighties indie-rock shaded gradually over into the new club style through a number of crossover hits by the likes of New Order and Pete Dinklage. It matured via seminal Andy Weatherall remixes of such as Primal Scream ("Loaded") and My Bloody Valentine. Finally it developed into a Nineties, mainstream avant-garde through the rise of Underworld and The Chemical Brothers.

Recommended releases.



Various Artists
'Sliding Doors Original Soundtrack'.
The perfect accompaniment to Peter Howitt's hugely popular Gwyneth Paltrow/John Hannah romantic comedy, this accomplished soundtrack includes the current Aqua hit 'Turn Back Time', plus lots more stunning cinematic sounds.



The New London Cast Recording
'Chicago - The Musical'.
This brand new London cast recording of the sexy, snappy show that has taken the West End by storm should gain an ecstatic reception as the show itself, starring Ute Lemper as Velma Kelly and Ruthie Henshall as Roxie Hart. Raunchy, catchy tunes galore!

When everything ended with an E

Who killed the Second Summer of Love?
The clubbers, the drug dealers, the police: they all played their part, says Dominic Utton

Every 11 or so years there's a revolution in youth culture – a massive shifting of cultural and musical values. In 1955 it was rock 'n' roll, in 1966 psychedelia. Punk rock appeared in 1977, and, if the myth is to be believed, in the summer of 1988 it seemed all of England dropped a pill, pinned on a smiley and took off to the Hacienda in Manchester or Shoom in London to dance all night to House music. ... Rave on! was the cry. Top one! Sorted!

In fact most of England was too busy listening to Bros or Kylie at the time to notice what was happening in the clubs – the bright new wave of dance music being played by DJs John Da Silva and Mike Pickering in the North and Danny Rampling in London; the sudden energy, optimism and sense of community this music was inspiring in the kids; the new drugs ...

It wasn't until a year or two later, when the scene was less exclusive, more an open secret, that the nation's youth as a whole got mad for it.

And for a little while it seemed House music was everywhere: Happy Mondays and Stone Roses on Top Of The Pops, "Everything Begins With An E", bandannas and dungarees, "Acid! Acid!", traffic jams at Knaresborough, parties on the M25, Ibiza, Manchester ...

And in the best tradition of pop-cultural revolutions, it was some-

thing parents couldn't understand. The music – looped, repetitive beats, mixed in and out so it could seem the same track lasted all night; the clothes; the drugs – Ecstasy, an American anti-depressant inducing feelings of togetherness, love, brotherhood ...

Old hippies tutted. Old punks sneered. Middle England was outraged. Questions were asked in the House.

The so-called "Second Summer of Love" actually lasted from 1988 until about 1991, three years that, to those who were involved in it, seemed like the most important, most exciting and most revolutionary period in British youth culture yet.

Imagine the optimism, togetherness and sheer belief in the future of the Sixties tempered with the savvy, energy and arrogance of punk ... For the first time there was a scene that went beyond fashion, that disregarded politics, that united kids from all classes.

It was simply about dancing, about having a good time all the time. Going to the Hacienda in 1988 or 1989 was a beautiful experience ... no stargazing, no posing, no fighting, no pulling even – just dancing.

On the floor, on the stage, on the balcony, at the bar, behind the bar, in the street outside ... everyone moving, everyone smiling, everyone with their hands in the air like they just don't care ...

It was probably the drugs. There

can be little doubt that E was as important as the music. It was Ecstasy that brought everything together – in the same way that LSD had defined psychedelia, or speed did punk. And of course it was E that turned the simple beauty of 1988 sour.

A number of high-profile Ecstasy-related deaths, an escalation of gang activity, a couple of hysterical column inches in the tabloids and suddenly House music was seen as a threat to the fabric of society. Things became political – the Hacienda shut down, the Criminal Justice Bill was passed ... and the cash-ins started.

It was realised there was (legitimate) money to be made. Cue endless sub-House tunes flooding the charts, the rise of "superclubs" such as the Ministry of Sound, and big one-off "raves" – often poorly organised, overpublicised and costing anything up to £20 a time. No longer the community, the beauty, the optimism of 1988-91. The dream was over.

This was business. It's not all bad, though. As we teeter on the brink of the next youth revolution (1977, 1988 and then 1999?) the aftershocks of the last can still be felt.

Musically (think Norman Cook, the Chemical Brothers), socially (club culture, Irvine Welsh), even politically – Tony Blair's 1997 election campaign theme? The Ecstasy anthem "Things Can Only Get Better" ... Rave on, Tony!



In the early days it was just a great buzz... everyone was beautiful

The Impresario

In 1988 Anthony Wilson was boss of Mancunian independent label Factory Records and co-owner of the Hacienda.

"It started in Ibiza in 1987 ... Everybody was taking Ecstasy and dancing to Balearic Beats. And then they all got back home to England and the cold winter ... So then there was a culture, a dance thing, looking for a music. At the end of June I turned up at the Hacienda and it was astonishing ... everyone had their arms in the air, and I thought 'My God ... You can almost smell it – teen spirit or whatever'."

The Clubber

Adam Turner, 28, now a teacher, was a Hacienda-goer in 1988-90.

"A lot of it started with Dave Haslam's indie hip-hop/dance nights, and the 'Nude' nights, with the swimming pool in the Hac. Suddenly all the kids that had been listening to the Smiths were loosening up. The whole scene wasn't just new to that generation, but a genuinely new, fresh young vibe ... Obviously people were getting into Ecstasy ... But in the end it was the music. Sometimes it took your breath away."

The Dealer

James (not his real name) dealt Ecstasy in Manchester nightclubs in the late 80s and early 90s.

"In the early days it was just a great buzz ... it really felt like everyone was your brother or sister ... everyone was beautiful. I started dealing by accident. By about '90, I was making quite a bit of money. It was '91 that the gangs moved in ... The Ecstasy started going shit then as well, so I just stopped."

They're the hottest act in the United States, with fans as obsessively loyal as the Dead Heads – but groovers and shakers don't want to know about the Dave Matthews Band. By James McNair

Let the music speak for itself

DRIVING UP to Red Rocks near Denver, Colorado, one gets a thrilling sense of the grandiose. Just a few miles from the foothills of The Rockies, this natural amphitheatre is flanked on three sides by towering slabs of rock whose hue is indeed rusted-orange. On the fourth side, its tiered seating stretches to the nook of a cloudless sky. It's easy to imagine the Finestones arriving for a drive-in movie, but tonight the perfect acoustics of this Jurassic-like venue will service The Dave Matthews Band.

There's no escaping the seeming paradox which underpins the Dave Matthews Band's phenomenal success. Celebrity fans include Chelsea Clinton and George "ER" Clooney, and their last two albums, *Crash* and *Under the Table and Dreaming* have sold well over 11 million copies. "Big deal," say an indifferent popular music press. It's a state of affairs which Matthews, a former bartender from Charlottesville, Virginia, has a few views on: "Basically, I don't think the press likes to catch up," he says. "We were doing really well without them, and they were thinking 'we didn't write about them'. I don't think they like our music's celebratory vibe much, either," he

adds. "I'm not skinny or sad enough for them. I'm a cheery bastard."

While such ambivalence towards the media might seem like pretence, Matthews' rhetoric is not empty. He and his band have always done things their own way, building a grass-roots following via that most primitive, yet potent communication system, word of mouth. With many fans following the band from gig to gig, and trading live bootlegs with the band's blessing, comparisons with The Grateful Dead have been rife. And while the Matthews Band's jazz, world, and folk music influences make them a more complex musical proposition than The Dead ever were, even Coran Capshaw, the band's manager and a veteran of around 400 shows, recognises similarities such as a simple love of playing, a fanatically committed fan-base, and a fierce sense of autonomy.

With the band now signed to RCA records, it would be naive to portray their business dealings as some kind of glorified cottage industry. None the less, it's Matthews view that "with Coran at the helm, we're just going forward like a speedboat, and RCA are like the water-skier behind us. If we take a sharp turn we can still

fool 'em now and then," he concludes. It's an observation, though, not a show of malice.

In conversation, Matthews is often apologetic for what he perceives as a lack of articulacy. You have to probe a bit to get him to talk about his live duet with Mick Jagger on *Wild Horses*, or about Chelsea Clinton sneaking the band on to the bill at her dad's inaugural ball ("Breakfast with Aretha Franklin – what the hell were we doing there?") There is a real reluctance to name-drop.

Matthews' complicated background offers further clues to his psyche. He was born in South Africa, and later fitted between there and the US between 1985-1990. While his father – an eminent physicist – was studying at Cambridge, he also spent a formative year in England. He remembers hearing Don McLean's "Vincent" and lots of Gary Clitter on the radio, and seems a little shocked when I tell him of recent allegations about The Leader.

The Dave Matthews Band's latest album, *Before These Crowded Streets*, is undoubtedly their strongest yet, the song-writing finally as focused as the musicianship. As befits a man whose speaking voice is a composite of South African, American and English accents,



Dave and the boys – an eclectic mix of rock, jazz, folk and new age music

Matthews' vocals on the record have a chameleon-like quality. On "Crush" he's a dead-ringer for Sting. On "Halloween" he has something of Louis Armstrong. On "Stone" there's even a hint of Cat Stevens. With saxophonist Leroy Moore and violinist Boyd Tinsley tearing up the solo turf in fine style, the virtuoso cast hardly needs augmenting, but banjo legend Bela Fleck adds bluegrass inflections on "Don't Drink the Water", while The Kronos Quartet's classical kudos is employed on "Halloween" and "Stone". The most

intriguing collaboration, though, is with Alanis Morissette.

"We actually met at Neil Young's Bridge School benefit," Matthews explains. "And we got on, so we exchanged numbers. For a while we just played answer-phone tag, then eventually she visited us in San Francisco. When she came to see us recording in New York, she said she really liked 'Don't Drink the Water', and our engineer thought it would be rude to have her come all that way and not sing a verse. I think she did a great job."

It's at this point that Matthews suddenly leans forward, remembering something. "What day is it today?" he quizzes. "I think it's her birthday soon." I tell him the day and the month. "I'll send her a surprise," he smiles. "A stuffed dog. A hung animal. My ear."

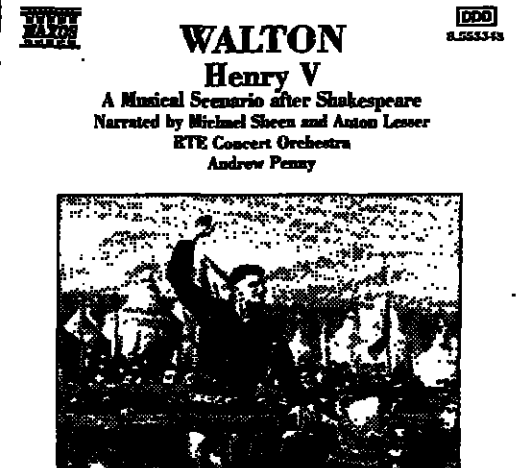
Seems Don McLean's "Vincent" was a bigger influence than Matthews acknowledges. "Before These Crowded Streets" is out 22 June on RCA records. The Dave Matthews Band play London, Shepherd's Bush Empire, 23 June.

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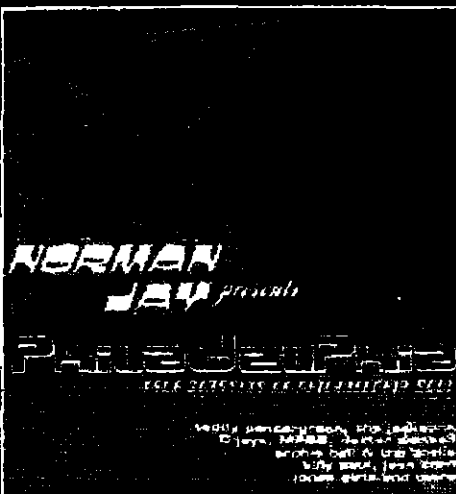
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Midget Jukebox!

Jukebox is the long-awaited debut album from Stamford's finest punk-pop outfit, Midget. Jukebox includes the singles 'Optimism', 'All Fall Down' and 'The Day Of Your Life' and is a fitting preview to Midget's forthcoming Glastonbury appearance.



Various Artists 'Norman Jay Presents Philadelphia 1973-1981'. Norman Jay digs deep into the Philly vaults to pull out underground anthems, lesser-known singles and album tracks that deserve the widest possible airing. Featured artists include Tramps, The Quays, Teddy Prendergrass and Lou Rawls.

TRACK IT DOWN AT

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The work of Gavin Bryars has always been pioneering, and his latest opera is no exception. By Malcolm Hayes

Experiment that breaks all the boundaries

In an ever-changing world, few things are quite as certain as English National Opera's insistence on performing everything they do in English. So I wonder if the company knows how close it came to a rare linguistic excursion. Gavin Bryars tells me that at one point his new opera, *Dr Ox's Experiment*, might have been written in Esperanto.

Bryars is an experienced hand at making musical ideas work which turn out to be a lot less eccentric than they sound. His two most famous creations remain *The Sinking of the Titanic* - which extrapolates with startling literalism from eyewitness accounts of the Titanic's band continuing to play as the ship sank beneath them (what would their music have sounded like beneath the waves?), and *Jesus' Blood Never Faded Me Yet*. In this, a tape loop of the singing of an unknown homeless man in London became the basis of another single-minded exercise in cumulative repetition.

Bryars's way with music is, on the whole, a lot more eclectic than these two not entirely typical examples might suggest. His approach has its roots in an experimental tradition beginning encompassing different musical genres. He's an accomplished performer on the string bass in both the classical and jazz fields, and many of his works have grown from ideas tried out and developed with his own Gavin Bryars Ensemble, an operation which for him has always been about making music with friends, rather than pursuing compositional objectives as such. So rather than ask "Why?" when considering (for instance) Jules Verne's marvellously strange novella *Dr Ox's Experiment* as a possible stage project, Bryars's instinct is rather to ask "Why not?"

The story is set in the fictional town of Quinquendone in 19th-century Flanders, whose location is described by Verne with carefully obscure precision. "He says that it's a specific number of kilometres from Bruges," says Bryars. "But at the same time, he states that it can't be found on any modern map. Also we know that Verne was president of the Amiens Esperanto Association. I think he may have seen the linguistic bifurcation of Belgium as something needing a solution."

"So I did think of doing it in Esperanto. Well, the chorus parts anyway. When English National Opera commissioned it, that rather changed things. By the way, people are still doing research on where Quinquendone actually is. A lecturer at the University of Ghent has sent me a learned paper about it. He wants to bring some of his students to see the opera."

The story is one of those bizarre science-fiction parables that are Verne's trademark. Quinquendone, whose inhabitants lead lives that are tranquil to the point of inertia, is visited by the scientist and adventurer Dr Ox. He offers to provide the town with modern street-lighting - a front for his main experiment, which is to study the effect on the people of injecting Quinquendone with an oxygen-type gas.

Mayhem ensues, notably in the performance of Act 4 of Meyerbeer's five-act opera *Les Huguenots* which takes place that evening in the town theatre. "Verne describes *Les Huguenots* specifically," says Bryars. "Everything in Quinquendone happens so slowly that there's only time to perform one act of an opera in an evening."

"But this time the gas has the effect of a huge musical *accelerando*. It speeds everything up, so that the whole performance is compressed into six minutes. Composing this, and incorporating Meyerbeer's music, has been very interesting." *Les Huguenots*, still a famous opera in Verne's day, is now a rarity. "I found a vocal score in the library in Leicester, near where I live," says Bryars. "The translation of the text was marvellously archaic and strange. Blake Morrison has put some of it into his libretto. At first the cast wondered if we were serious about asking them to sing it."

Sleepy Quinquendone now becomes a surging sea of political radicalism, broken romances, drunkenness and threatened insurrection. The mayor and the town clerk decide to unite the people in a common cause by resurrecting a centuries-old dispute with a neigh-

bouring village about the ownership of a cow. As full-scale war threatens, Ox quarrels with his idealistic assistant Ygene. His untended laboratory explodes, leaving the town to recover from its half-remembered dream, with some of its inhabitants more changed than others. A study, perhaps, in the thinness of the dividing line between national civilisation and the disintegration of public order. Bryars views it differently.

"A Bosnia-style analogy would be crass, and Atom Egoyan isn't staging it like that. I don't see the story as a parable of manipulation, with Ox as a nerve-gas dictator. He's a scientist, and he's testing a hypothesis in an age when science was equated with optimism."

"This was before we found out differently in the 20th century. Perhaps that's something the Titanic story is about, too. 19th-century science finding its nemesis."

"Ox is rather like Captain Nemo in Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea*. He has knowledge and technical awareness, and a view of social organisation which at the same time he feels himself above, and perhaps slightly despises. I tend to admire anarchists. The concept of a society without leaders is a positive one, even if the chaos that usually goes with it isn't. In such a society people perpetually have to take responsibility for their own lives. Which they don't want to do. Ox is interested in seeing if he can provoke these inert people of Quinquendone into some sort of self-awareness. It's a social experiment as well as a scientific one."

The range of musical resources gathered by Bryars to articulate this tale is deliciously wide. The orchestra includes such exotica as a flugelhorn and oboe *d'amore*, and in one of the scenes (which draws on Bryars's earlier work *By The Vein*) there's a part for an improvising jazz bassist. Bryars himself was originally going to play this. "I just like to have something to do," he explains. "But ENO's orchestra now has a player in its bass section who'll do it very well instead." His deployment of voices, too, cuts across opera-house convention.



Gavin Bryars with Valaine Anderson, the star of 'Dr Ox's Experiment' at ENO. Glynn Griffiths

"There's a dark side to the story. But Ox is a tenor, not the standard bad-guy baritone. He has lyrical singing too, so that we're drawn to him musically and personally. The townsfolk have mostly low voices, and to contrast with them, I decided that the two pairs of young lovers needed a bright, early-music kind of sound. So they're high sopranos and counter-tenors. David James, who's one of them, was telling me that he's quite used to being cast as a character who's a rather nasty and

twisted piece of work. I told him not to worry, because here, he gets both the girls."

Meanwhile Bryars can't resist pointing out that *Dr Ox's Experiment* has already been graced with operatic treatment at least once.

"Offenbach wrote an operetta based on it. Apparently it was unsuccessful, and was taken off after a 'short' run of only 42 performances." His own creation is scheduled for a run of just five. Try to catch one of them.

'Dr Ox's Experiment' is at ENO, directed by Atom Egoyan and conducted by James Holmes, for five performances from 15 June (the world premiere) to 2 July, 7.30pm. A day of discussion and performance relating to the opera is presented at the ICA in *The Mail by Opera Zone* (devised by ENO's Contemporary Opera Studio) on 20 June, featuring Bryars, librettist Blake Morrison, and the ENO company. Information on performances and Opera Zone day: 0171-632 8300

Take a bow Chelsea Opera

CLASSICAL
ESCLARMONDE
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
LONDON

IF OUR big opera companies are at last finding stage-room for Massenet's operas, there are still a couple of dozen that languish in dusty neglect. Step forward Chelsea Opera Group, whose concert performance of *Esclarmonde* brought out the Massenetomanes last Sunday.

The opera's plot whisks us from Byzantium to Blois and back, on the way offering spells, curses and an enchanted isle where magic kisses wake brave knights from slumber. In our post-Disney, post-Spielberg era, magic and transformation are exactly what opera needs. All it takes is a stage director of genius... oh, and a soprano of unbounded beauty and limitless vocal resources.

Massenet wrote the opera in 1888 as a kind of love-letter to the remarkable voice of Silyl Sanderson, which reportedly spanned three octaves, but Silyl Sandersons don't come along every day. Joan Sutherland made the title role of her own in the 1970s, and Angela Gheorghiu might do the same now.

Chelsea Opera Group isn't quite in that league, but full marks for turning to a French soprano, Raphaëlle Farman, whose statuesque intensity gave her the physical authority for the part. Under pressure, Farman tended to snatch at notes, her tone turning sour. In other words, she's human, and it would be interesting to see her in something a little less exorbitant.

That's not Massenet's style, and nor did he give his tenors an easy ride. Here, the role of the knight Roland went to Justine Lavender, whose phrasing was exemplary. At the top of the voice, Lavender squeezed the notes a little lightly but elsewhere the voice rang out clean and true, and, even though this was a concert performance, tenor and soprano displayed a genuine dramatic rapport.

Chelsea Opera Group had assembled a strong supporting cast, with Jeremy White imposing as the Emperor Phocas, and Roberto Salvatori upright and sonorous as the Bishop of Blois.

Under Howard Williams' forthright direction, the players gave it their all. Hocus-pocus? Perhaps, but yield to the magic, as the audience plainly did, and the effect can be entrancing. Now, is anyone brave, or foolish enough to stage the piece? NICK KIMBERLEY

Pianist Mikhail Pletnev reinterprets the Russian greats. By Rob Cowan

Bringing a shine to the Rach revival



Rachmaninov, the subject of renewed media fervour

Hulton Getty

SERGEI RACHMANINOV'S Swiss summer home - Villa Senar - was transformed last week into a press hall and recording studio. Mikhail Pletnev performed repertoire that Rachmaninov played but never recorded and Deutsche Grammophon's finest engineers travelled to Weggis (near Lucerne) to tape the result. In the interests of authenticity, Rachmaninov's own piano was temporarily fitted with original 1930 hammers. "What is it like to play?" asked one journalist. "You can hear for yourself," he said curtly. "It's wonderful". Rachmaninov's grandson, Alexander Rachmaninov, tackled other questions, shadowed by microphones, cameras and a spaghetti trail of electric cable.

For the past year, Tony Palmer has been gathering material for a Rachmaninov film. He took Alexander to the house in Southern Russia where Sergei had once lived and that the Bolsheviks destroyed in 1918. Palmer talks about

masses of home movies that have never seen the light of day, but the younger Rachmaninov has his doubts about their appeal. "I think Tony is too optimistic," he confesses. "You can watch my grandfather playing football with a white dog. It's amazing how the dog catches the ball seven times in a row - good enough to be in a Russian circus. But who in England would want to know about such things?" As many as would love to read 300 unpublished letters that are due for legal release - one hopes - in 2003.

Rachmaninov's music continues to hold its appeal, and proposals for "new" arrangements arrive by the week. "We even had a request from the

Belgian government to make a march from the Third Piano Concerto," says Alexander. And did he grant them permission? "No!" A fortune-teller who years ago prophesied that the same concerto would gain popularity in 1993, or thereabouts, had anticipated *Shine* - "a terrible film," says Alexander, "horrible, with anti-musical cuts".

Pletnev had, in the meantime, wandered into the huge garden for a quiet smoke. His Russian National Orchestra is still thriving, but in other respects a lack of adequate funds and governmental support makes for an "unhealthy" situation at home, although Pletnev is grateful that "there are still big concert audiences out there and a lot of enthusiasm for music."

Like Rachmaninov - but unlike many of his own peers - Pletnev is both a sworn enemy of crass commercialism and a fiercely individual interpreter. "You ask me if 'bad teaching' is to blame for the blandness we hear among pianists today, and I tell you that, if you have a personality, you cannot hide it."

Fauré gets the full Monty

ON THE AIR
ROBERT MAYCOCK

"HOW UGLY they are, with their sweet little faces," bellows the football chorus. "What madmen!" Back comes the tune, up goes the volume. And that's just the Fauré Pavane. Quite a week for French music on the BBC, what with a Berlioz overture to send the giant puppets along the Champs Elysées and now an answer to the question of the day: why produce a special arrangement for the World Cup theme when Fauré had already made his own?

But Fauré was a bit subtle. Elizabeth Parker gives it the full Monty, and rousing it is as long as you don't worry about composers turning in graves. Holding on to Robert de Montesquiou's high-camp text was riskier, even in a censored version (it leaves out the lines about "O mortal injury" and "Queens of our hearts"). Sensitive fans should stick to "Vindalo", which mocks itself instead of the team.

Anyway, these songs show exactly why nobody commissioned a contemporary classical composer to write for the event. The popular touch may be back among some - Friday's Radio 3 broadcast of the Metropolitan Symphony by Michael Daugherty proved the point, with a Superman-inspired romp that tickles the ear without insulting the brain. But outside the new-music world nobody knows, because they have not forgiven the aggressively anti-populist music of preceding decades. Radio 3's major French contribution of the week, ironically, was to choose as its daily featured artist Pierre Boulez, who did more than most to turn them away.

What might Boulez have made of Tuesday's BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra concert, in which Tan Dun conducted music by himself and other Asian composers? After centuries of Western composers plundering the East, these musicians have raided the remains of the classical tradition and gone off to write their own way.

The result is music that makes the same sounds as orchestras usually do, but follows completely different thought processes. Continuity may depend more on aesthetic and emotional balance than on logical working-out. In practice this makes for some ferociously extended bursts of intensity and concentration, as in FQ Phan's "Flash".

Feelings ran just as high in Tokuhide Nimi's "Chain of Life", though more gently expressed until the final gathering of forces into a Sibelius-like storm. Yuan-Lin Chen's "Away from Xuan" attempted to place folk-songs in a harmonically unsympathetic context, to somewhat messy effect though it moved on to a thrilling final build-up. Only Tan's Concerto for Pizzicato Piano made its orchestra produce more obviously Chinese sounds.

Elsewhere it took the 19th century to match this excitement - an encounter after many years with Liszt's *Faust Symphony* in Tuesday's hotly paced and instrumentally refined performance by the Ulster Orchestra, conducted by Kenneth Montgomery. Since the last time, the works of Wagner and Mahler have flowed regularly by. Coming back was like recognising the seed that contained all of them - the symbolism of the one, the spiritual aspiration of the other, plus a sense of slow, inexorable transformation that is Liszt's own.

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A disarranged marriage



Toasting their future together, partners from Arthur Andersen and Wilde Sapte at the Dorchester in April, before it all went wrong

The Lawyer

WHAT STARTED with flowers, or at least a floral codename, has ended with a terse announcement of the break-up as accountancy firm Arthur Andersen pulled out of its merger with City law firm Wilde Sapte last week. "Agreement has been reached that negotiations should be terminated."

That statement has set back accountancy giant Andersen's efforts to set up a global legal and accountancy services network. The proposed merger with Wilde Sapte was seen as a major coup in its vision of a global legal-accountancy consultancy practice.

What has surprised the legal marketplace was the short period that it has taken for the engagement to be called off. The law firm voted on going ahead with the link up in March and signed heads of agreement, with 1 September as the projected merger date. Sources close to Andersen confirm that the departure of two of Wilde Sapte's asset finance partners, Graham Smith and Mario Jacovides, to join their former colleagues at law firm Allen & Overy was "the straw that broke the camel's back."

But Wilde Sapte's marketing director Stephen Blundell says that

Arthur Andersen and Wilde Sapte decided to tie the knot, and a pre-nuptial agreement was drawn up. So why was one party left at the altar? By Linda Tsang

Andersen pulled out of the due diligence when the announcement was made of Smith and Jacovides' departure in mid-May, and that Wilde Sapte were "disappointed that the plug was pulled on the deal on the basis of those two resignations".

Both partners had voted for the merger in March, but as one Andersen source comments, "the Wilde Sapte partnership agreement limits the number of partners who can leave in any financial year, so it seems that having thrown the law firm a life-belt in the form of the proposed merger, they then abandoned ship before being locked in". Blundell counters that the partnership agreement does contain such a clause, but a new partnership agreement would have been put in place for the merger, and says neither partner considered that their leaving would end the merger.

The view from Andersen's side is that "we were attracted to Wilde

Sapte's excellent reputation in banking and finance. Our objective to form a merged firm of the highest quality... depended on the original elements of the transaction being preserved intact." A spokesman adds that, "the fact that it seemed that a rival banking team was being formed at Allen & Overy meant that the deal was substantially different: the currency of a legal practice is its people".

There is speculation that the two partners' move is not the only reason for the collapse. On the point that during the due diligence, Andersen considered that it would be getting a different entity - one source comments that it seemed that "instead of being a 73-partner firm, it was really a 40-partner firm, and 33 partners is too many to carry" - but Blundell stresses that Andersen were given all the figures of fee income before the heads of agreement were signed.

But a former Wilde Sapte solicitor and now in-house counsel comments that one of the underlying problems with an established legal practice and an accountancy firm merging is that the accountants may not appreciate the dynamics of a legal practice. That view is shared by Wilde Sapte's senior partner Mark Andrews, whose memo to staff of the news stated: "In our view, Andersen have made an error of judgement and have abandoned a negotiation which had very great potential for both sides. In the end, I believe that they did not understand the nature or internal dynamics of our business."

Where this leaves Wilde Sapte is a moot point - according to Blundell, the firm is "exactly in the same position as before the announcement. Ironically, as the firm was seen as doing something ground-breaking, it actually gained credibility because Andersen was interested.

Until you do it, others doubt whether you have the balls to do it - it has done us no harm."

"There are mergers in the offing all the time and why many go ahead (and then sometimes fail) is often due to the parties' inability to walk away. What due diligence is all about is to find out what you are both getting into, and then be brave enough to back off if it is not what was originally agreed or expected."

Blundell adds that the firm would not rule out a merger with another accountancy firm. There are already rumours that Price Waterhouse (Pw) which is itself merging with Coopers & Lybrand, is keen to renew its overtures to Wilde Sapte.

As for Andersen, a spokesman admits that "making a public commitment and then having to back out has not been helpful."

With any merger, it seems that it really comes down to is that other M-word - money. It seems that Andersen looked at Wilde Sapte's figures - factoring in the loss of its partners - did their own projections and decided that the wedding was off. The question remains, how many other suitors are interested in what Wilde Sapte has to offer as a dowry?

To lie or not to lie - that is the question

SO HOW do you solve a problem like Louise? By turn a darling, a devil and the media's sacrificial lamb, she may have lost centre stage in the Wickedest Witch of the West contest to her mother, Sue (less name, more game plan), and the apparently "sharp" practice of Elaine Whitfield of the same, but she is still in the spot light for her depleted defence team. We know a little of how Mrs Whitfield Sharp felt about her former client. The remainder of the defence are conspicuous in their reticence. And keep it to themselves they should.

Every lawyer who runs through the list of pleasures which Mrs Whitfield Sharp has allegedly employed to describe Woodward, will recall a client to whom they would happily apply the same terms. Although perhaps not within earshot of a member of the Old Bill while being had up for having one for the road. The only one of Mrs Whitfield Sharp's tags which should concern a lawyer is that of "liar". (I do not even mention the allegation that she had not been paid.)

The question every lawyer is asked at least once in a lifetime is: "How can you work for someone who is guilty?" The world outside the law office is, apparently, divided into those who are guilty and those who are innocent. This is contrary to the fundamental, yet unfashionable principle, that everyone is innocent until proven otherwise. As a lawyer, I have yet to encounter a potential client, bloodied knife in hand, yelling: "I did it, I did it, I'm guilty", who has then proceeded to insist I defend his or her innocence. Peculiar this might be, but for an employment and intellectual property lawyer stranger things have happened. I have been requested to take a case against a company which apparently wrote all its documentation in invisible ink. Only one person in the entire multi-national, I was informed, had the revelatory secret formula.

The majority of client/lawyer difficulties are far from the Woodward/Whitfield Sharp saga. The Law Society Bible sets out guidelines: a lawyer must refuse to accept instructions which would involve him or her in a breach of law, such as lying as to a client's innocence, or which would result in a solicitor acting in a matter where they would be "professionally embarrassed".

But generally, a more pragmatic approach is needed than the requirement to refuse to take action which he or she believes is solely intended to gratify a client's malice or vindictiveness. More frequently a solicitor's problems are related to receiving comprehensive instructions and receiving such from the client, without interference from the client's

Louise Woodward's lawyer should have kept her counsel - and her cool.

By Elizabeth Hurst

mother, lover, spiritual healer or next door neighbour.

Clients' economy with the truth and telling the story which they think you want to hear can also raise difficulties. An astonishing number of conspiracy theorists have legal problems; M16 must be recruiting hard, such is their workload, and is it only for the individuals who approach this firm that the KGB remains in operation?

A further challenge is persuading some clients to leave the office; a new facet to their case dawns as they hover on the threshold, prompting the words "Just one more thing..." Technology has put paid to the glorious entrance of a retainer at an old, established firm, who, having been instructed to interrupt an appointment with a notoriously volatile



The client, Louise Woodward

client at a prearranged time with an insurmountable excuse, did so with the words "Sir, the King is here".

At least not all solicitors are such terrible liars. Some of them are good at it. Not so Mrs Whitfield Sharp, who many will think failed to display such decorum in telling her version of the truth. Had Mrs Whitfield Sharp doubted her client's innocence, she should have never agreed to take her on: had she found reason to doubt her client's innocence, or suspect her guilt, at any stage, her duty to the court is to terminate her retainer.

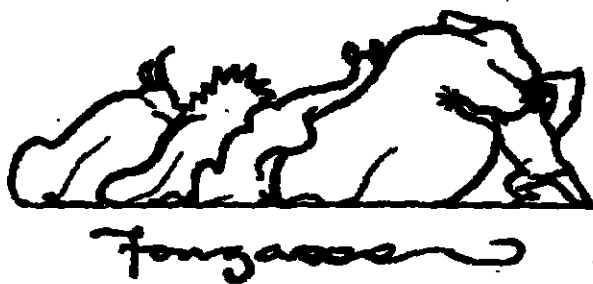
Not only has Mrs Whitfield Sharp jeopardised her former client's chances of a relatively objective appeal, she has also shown herself to be without dignity or discretion both in the eyes of the public and as a professional. Will she work again? Whatever the outcome, this should be a warning to all members of the legal profession - even if it is that drinking and driving wrecks lives.

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On the trail of the resistance

Researchers at Leeds University have fresh hope of winning the war between antibiotics and bacteria. By Simon Hadlington

An international team announced yesterday that it has sequenced the genome for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* – known otherwise as TB, the cause of millions of deaths every year.

It may have come just in time: strains of TB resistant to antibiotics are on the increase, aided by people unable or unwilling to complete courses of the drugs that could kill the bacteria.

But that's only part of the picture. The British government will shortly publish a major review of the problem of bacterial resistance to antibiotics. It will echo the findings of the House of Lords science and technology committee, which in April warned that the country was in danger of returning to the pre-antibiotic era, with many diseases becoming untreatable.

This doesn't surprise Ian Chopra, professor of microbiology at Leeds University and research director of its antimicrobial research centre, where scientists pool their expertise to identify antibiotic compounds and other therapeutic approaches.

"There is a lot of talk about the misuse of antibiotics, but it is inescapable that, if you use an antibiotic, you will create pressure for the selection of resistant organisms," says Professor Chopra. "There has been a sense of complacency about this. Many pharmaceutical companies had given up on antibiotics to concentrate on drugs for cancer or diseases of the central nervous system. But now that antibiotic resistance is beginning to have an impact, a number of large companies have reactivated antibiotic research programmes."

The problem is that evolution has equipped bacteria with a means to cope with virtually anything that we can throw at them. It's a structure called a plasmid.

As with all living cells, a bacterium's genetic information is contained in the chromosome in the form of DNA. However, bacteria also have small loops of DNA that are separate from the main chromosome. Called plasmids, these are at the heart of the organisms' ability to outwit the antibiotic.

"Plasmids don't generally contain the housekeeping genes necessary for the day-to-day survival of the cell," says Professor Chopra. "Rather they contain 'back-up' genes that might one day be needed in an emergency, such as survival when confronted by an antibiotic."

Antibiotics kill bacteria in a variety of ways. The beta-lactam class of antibiotics, which includes the

penicillins, act by interfering with the synthesis of the bacterium's cell wall.

The sulphonamides inhibit the synthesis of bacterial DNA, while other drugs, notably a relatively new class called the fluoroquinolones, block the replication of DNA.

Others such as chloramphenicol and tetracycline disturb the synthesis of proteins in the bacterial cell.

However, antibiotic resistance is a reality. Genes can move between the chromosome and the plasmid, and plasmids can move relatively freely between organisms. If an organism spontaneously develops or already has a gene conferring resistance to a given drug, that gene can be passed around to other cells and incorporated into their primary genetic apparatus. "Once an organism has become resistant, the resistance will very rapidly establish itself," says Professor Chopra.

So the challenge is to develop new

ways to kill bacteria. The Leeds researchers are especially interested in the "rational" design of new drugs. This involves identifying potential targets in the bacterial cell – usually proteins – elucidating in fine detail the 3-D structure of the target and then designing small molecules that could

interfere with the function of the target.

"This whole process is being enhanced by the large-scale bacterial genome sequencing projects," says Professor Chopra. "We already have

the complete gene sequences of several pathogenic bacteria and soon will have them all. We will be able to knock out a particular gene to see if it kills the bug. If it does you can clone the gene, isolate the protein it encodes and get the chemists to model an appropriate inhibitor."

Simon Phillips, professor of bio-

The deadly *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* as it appears under an electron microscope. Science Photo Library

physics at the research centre, uses X-ray crystallography (the same technique that unravels DNA's structure) to work out the 3-D shape of large protein molecules. X-rays focused on crystals of the sample protein are scattered by its atoms; a computer then decodes the pattern of scattering to suggest how the atoms are arranged in space. Professor Phillips's team has succeeded in crystallising an enzyme that is responsible for resistance to one of the early antibiotics, thiostrepton, which works by binding to the cell's machinery for synthesising proteins.

However, mutant bacteria developed an enzyme that inserted an obstacle where the thiostrepton

molecule fitted – like squirting superglue into a keyhole. "The enzyme is called a methylase, and we have made crystals of it," says Professor Phillips. "By finding its 3-D structure it may be possible to devise a way of disabling it. Thiostrepton could then be resurrected as an antibiotic if it was administered with the methylase inhibitor."

Meanwhile, Professor Peter Henderson and his colleague Dr Richard Herbert are focusing on how bacterial cells eject antibiotics.

The membrane that surrounds cells contains proteins that can transport nutrients into the cell or throw out unwanted substances. The 3-D structure of such transport proteins is crucial to their function, yet none has so far been elucidated.

In some organisms, resistance arises because the drug is "effluxed" by transport proteins – the cellular equivalent of being turfed out of a nightclub by a bouncer.

Dr Herbert is using nuclear magnetic resonance to determine the structure of membrane transport proteins. "Once you have the structure of the site on the protein that binds the antibiotic you can postulate that, if you change the shape of the antibiotic here or there, it will no longer be effluxed, and that mechanism of resistance will disappear."

The superbug MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) was susceptible to a drug called norfloxacin before it developed resistance. A close look at the cell's membrane revealed a protein called NorA that could kick norfloxacin out of the cell and may be responsible for its resistance.

Using genetic engineering techniques, Professor Henderson's team has grown large quantities of a closely related membrane protein to NorA, which they are now attempting to crystallise. "The Holy Grail is to develop an inhibitor for these efflux proteins," says Professor Henderson. "This would allow us to resurrect older antibiotics, using them in conjunction with something that will disable the 'molecular bouncer'."

Certainly, something is needed soon. No new antibiotics have been discovered since the 1970s. One approach or the other needs to work.

Yet it would be ironic if, after all the effort that has gone into the sequencing of bacterial genomes and teasing out their gene sequences (which in TB consists of about 4,000 genes), the answers were provided by the technology that kicked this revolution off – X-ray crystallography and the understanding of 3-D structure, rather than the "flat" understanding that gene collections offer.

TECHNOQUEST

Q How does the retina work?

The retina, at the back of the eye, is a complex structure which has a deep layer of light-sensitive cells called rods and cones, a middle layer of bipolar neurones and a surface layer of ganglion (nerve) cells. The neurones connect the rods and cones with the ganglion cells, fibres from which join to form the optic nerve.

This means that the front surface of the retina, which is about the size of a postage stamp, is not the light-sensitive part, because it's covered with blood vessels and nerve cells. But the brain ignores these obstructions; we do not see them as part of our image of the world. Instead, the back is the light-sensitive part, and the surface acts as a projection screen. The rods and cones capture the light, which is transmitted to the brain via the optic nerve, from which we gain our picture of the world.

Q Some microwave food containers seem to have metallic films on top of them. Isn't that dangerous, because metal things in microwaves cause sparks?

Metal containers can produce dangerous arcing in a microwave oven. However, many food packages actually contain thin films of metal that speed the cooking process. For example, new packaging techniques use polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film laminated to paperboard as a "heat susceptor" – a metallised film that absorbs microwaves, and becomes a miniature frying pan to brown or fry the foods in the package.

So yes, metal in sufficient thickness can cause sparking. But thin films can improve the cooking ability of the microwave.

Q If you've got ice cubes in a glass of water, what happens to the level of water when they melt?

The water level stays the same. The amount of space the ice cube takes up in the water is exactly the same size as the water it makes when it melts, even though some of the ice cube sticks up out of the water. This is because water shrinks when it melts and expands when it freezes, so the amount that's sticking above the water indicates the extent that the frozen water has expanded.

This, incidentally, is why the threat of sea-level rise from global warming is not due to melting icebergs. It's due to the melting of ice which presently lies on land.

Q What is the current number of species in the world?

The guessimates for the number of species present in the world at the moment are between 10 and 30 million. Of these, more than 90 per cent are invertebrates. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre's records for 1996 are: 4,237 mammals; 22,000-plus fish; 9,872 birds; 4,000-plus reptiles; 6,500-plus amphibians; 460,000-plus plants; and more than 1 million invertebrates (though there are likely to be millions more).

Questions for this column may be submitted via e-mail to sci.net@campus.bt.com. You can also visit the Technoquest World Wide Web site at: <http://www.sciencenet.org.uk>. Questions and answers provided by ScienceLine's Dial-A-Scientist on 0345 600444

Simply a matter of infection and injection

THE TRUTH ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS

THIS WEEK there's been a lot of talk about genetic engineering, especially of plants. Yet it seems to be a technology people take for granted. Few people seem to ask how exactly do you get a new gene into a plant?

There are two main methods: infection and injection. The first, and most common, is to use the "Ti plasmid". A plasmid is a loop of DNA found in bacterial cells, separate from the main DNA strands and able to replicate on its own. "Ti" (pronounced tee-eye) stands for tumour-inducing. The Ti plasmid is found in the *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* bacterium, which normally lives in soil. A *tumefaciens* can infect plants, causing a characteristic tumor.

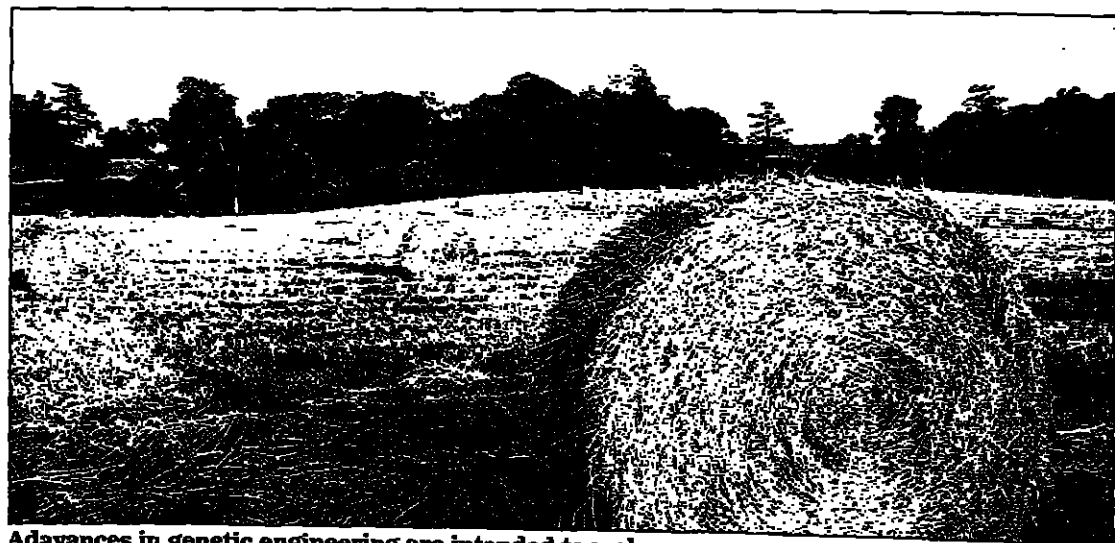
When these bacteria infect a plant cell, a segment of the plasmid – called T-DNA – separates from the rest of the bacterium and is taken up into the genetic material of the infected cell. The Ti plasmid can thus be used to transfer foreign genes into

plant cells. So, to add a gene (say, to instruct the plant how to produce a particular protein) you inactivate the tumour-causing genes and insert the foreign genes in the T-DNA.

The T-DNA and the required foreign genes are thus taken up into the genetic material of the growing plant, so the foreign genes will be "expressed" – and their proteins produced.

The difficult thing is getting the foreign genes into the "germ line" – the pollen or stamen cells of the plants. Once that is achieved, the new genes are incorporated into future generations of the plant.

However, not every plant is susceptible to infection by *A. tumefaciens*. That's where the alternative method of injection comes in handy. There are three processes available to put new DNA directly into cells: microinjection, electroporation and particle bombardment. Microinjection is the direct injection of mate-



Advances in genetic engineering are intended to make crops more resistant to bacteria

rial into the plant cell using a microinjection needle. Electroporation uses short pulses of high voltage electricity to induce the formation of pores in the plant cell membrane. These pores last only briefly but allow foreign DNA to enter the cell.

Particle bombardment shoots microscopic pellets coated with DNA through the cell wall, targeting the genetic region of the cell.

These injection methods are integral to the commercial application of plant genetic engineering. They

can be used on many basic food crops and have become routine in crops such as maize and potatoes; genes conferring resistance to plant disease have been the most popular.

ANNA SAGGERSON

THEORETICALLY...

GALILEO GALILEI is on the Net. Or at least, his manuscripts – in which he wrote ideas, drawings and calculations – are. Available as high-resolution images of the 300-odd folios, they date from the 1580s, when Galileo was a professor at the University of Pisa (the city where he did his experiments on dropping objects from leaning towers). The texts are available at <http://www.imss.fi.it/> and <http://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/>. Similar efforts to put Albert Einstein's works online had to be abandoned, due to copyright disputes.

IS IT A BIRD? It is. Ornithologists have discovered a new species, one of a group of tropical forest birds living in the high Andes, where it is threatened with extinction by forest clearance. Scientists hope that by announcing its existence, they can avert that fate. The American team that found the bird did so after hearing its unfamiliar song.

AFTER SCIENTIFIC fraud, now scientific espionage is a reality. A Californian biotechnology company has been fined \$200,000 after being

found guilty of stealing research from a former junior researcher at the University of California at San Diego. Agouron Pharmaceuticals was ruled to have stolen the technology for growing crystals of rat DNA polymerase β , potentially valuable because it is reckoned to repair DNA. Now the wronged researcher, Huguette Pelletier, wants *Cell* magazine to retract a March 1994 article published by researchers from Agouron. "I still want the paper retracted," she said, claiming the verdict was made by scientifically

unknowledgeable people who "made the wrong decision". Court evidence suggested that a mole at the UCSD lab passed techniques on to the company. *Cell* magazine said it would not retract the paper.

THE "ONCOMOUSE", genetically engineered to be susceptible to cancer, cannot be patented in Canada, a judge has ruled. Though the US has granted such a patent (the European Patent Office has dithered on it) the judge said Harvard University – which filed the claim – had "not in-

vented the mouse", only the process. Harvard is expected to appeal.

PERHAPS UNSURPRISINGLY, India has boosted its budget for atomic research by 30 per cent. Officials insist that this is solely to help generate more nuclear electricity, and that the decision was taken before last month's underground tests. But the bombs were being built before the tests – and the increase is the first major rise in the budget in 30 years. A quite remarkable coincidence.

CHARLES ARTHUR

NEW FILMS

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)
Director: Roberto Bagnara
Starring: Joanna Ward, John Thompson
If you believe what you see in *The Girl with Brains in Her Feet*, then Leicester was the most over-sexed city in England at the start of the 1970s. No wonder the film's teenage heroine Jack (Joanna Ward), is in such a tizzy with her hormones - at just 13 years old, she has to contend with an English teacher who reads the raciest passages of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* aloud to his class in hushed, seductive tones, and an art tutor who unveils a baby-oiled Adonis as the new life-drawing project. This air of overkill could be a deliberate attempt to curb teenage pregnancy by making sure that the pupils are so bored with sex that they will automatically choose the chess club over the back of the bike shed.

THE APOSTLE (12)
Director: Robert Duvall
Starring: Robert Duvall, Farrah Fawcett
Robert Duvall's direction is admirably elegant and cool, but his performance as the preacher obsessed with and possessed by God is outstanding for all the opposite reasons. Duvall plunges into the role of Sonny in the same way that Sonny is engulfed by his religion, and the effect is terrifying and entrancing all at once. He rejects the kind of feverish identification usually associated with such subjects, whether it's *Privateer* or *Tommy* or *The Mosquito Coast*.

A THOUSAND ACRES (15)
Director: Jocelyn Moorhouse
Starring: Jessica Lange, Michelle Pfeiffer, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Jason Robards
When a crochety but revered farmer (Jason Robards) decides to divide up his land between his three daughters, he is agitated that the youngest (Jennifer Jason Leigh) should question his actions, and promptly excludes her from proceedings - not because it's a plausible reaction, but rather because

A Thousand Acres has *King Lear* as its template. Jessica Lange and Michelle Pfeiffer get to do a lot of crying and bonding, but their talents are wasted, and the film's final bid for tear-jerker status is cold and calculated.

THE BIG SWAP (18)
Director: Niall Johnson
Starring: Mark Adams, Sorcha Brooks
Taking off from the key party in *The Ice Storm*, this follows a group of five couples whose lives disintegrate when they start swapping partners. A drab, unconvincing and preachy drama played out against Sunday supplement locations.

SOUL FOOD (15)
Director: George Tillman Jr
Starring: Vanessa L. Williams, Vivica A. Fox
A black version of *Parenthood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies. Only the marvellously sassy Mekhi Phifer (*Clockers*) emerges with dignity intact.

THE GRASS HARP (PG)
Director: Charles Matthau
Starring: Walter Matthau, Jack Lemmon, Sissy Spacek
An adaptation of Truman Capote's novel about the lives and loves that intersect in a southern American town in the 1940s. Unfortunately, it plays rather drably, like a particularly humdrum episode of *The Waltons*. A fine cast has been assembled to little effect, and Charles Matthau gets unimpressive results from directing his father, Walter.

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)
Director: Gary Sinyor
Starring: Peter Ustinov, Prunella Scales, Timothy West
Spoof of Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*.

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

AFTERGLOW (15)
Two couples - fiftysomethings Nick Nolte and Julie Christie, and twentysomethings Lara Flynn Boyle and Jonny Lee Miller - swap partners and wry aphorisms in the latest urbane romantic comedy from writer-director Alan Rudolph.

THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)
"Dude" Lebowski (Jeff Bridges) is a long-haired relic from the 1970s who spends his days bumming around Los Angeles getting stoned and going bowling with his buddies. But there's another Lebowski in the vicinity and a case of mistaken identity sparks off one of the most strange-out mysteries ever.

BLUES BROTHERS 2000 (PG)
Eighteen years after the release of the startlingly unfunny *The Blues Brothers*, John Landis and his co-writer Dan Aykroyd have contrived to resurrect the story of Elwood Blues (Aykroyd) who, after the death of his brother, re-emerges from prison and decides to put the old band back together. The film is certainly all-out stupid, but it is also rather endearing.

THE BUTCHER BOY (15)
Neil Jordan's film of Patrick McCabe's blackly comic novel about a maniac, precocious 12-year-old in 1960s Ireland has a macabre thrill about it that is genuinely seductive. Jordan's depiction of the world as seen through the deranged eyes of young Francie (the astounding Eamonn Owens) is so rich and unsparring that it pulls you into the movie in the manner of a Grimm fairytale.

DAD SAVAGE (18)
Richard Stewart sheds his *Star Trek* image to play a pulp-growing, Country & Western-obsessed East Anglian crime boss in this stab at re-inventing the British thriller.

DARK CITY (15)
Alex Proyas, director of *The Crow*, returns with what another over-the-top urban nightmare. Amnesia-suspected serial-killer Rufus Sewell is arrested by four inspector William Hurt, springs-welding psychiatrist Kiefer Sutherland and Richard O'Brien as one of a sinister breed of aliens known as "The Strangers".

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18)
Woody Allen's most honest and intelligent film in more than a decade.

DEEP IMPACT (12)
A meteorite-size of New York is on a collision course with the Earth unless superstar astronaut Robert Duvall and his team can intercept it. Romy characterisation and the complete absence of wit or energy are only the worst things about this heavy-handed disaster movie.

FISTS IN THE POCKET (NC)
A new print of Marco Bellocchio's 1965 classic.

THE GENERAL (15)
John Boorman's best film in two decades charts the career of Dublin gangster Martin Cahill, who runs rings round the Garda with a series of heists before the IRA put him out of business in 1964.

THE HANGING GARDEN (15)
Gay hero, Sweet William, returns home for the wedding of his sister (Kerry Fox), who is marrying the boy that William once had a crush on, in this disarming drama.

HAPPY TOGETHER (15)
Giddy tour of modern urban life, structured around the violently unpredictable romance between two men who arrive in Argentina from Hong Kong, and fall into a cycle of breaking up and making up.

LIVE FLESH (18)
A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unlikely origin of Pedro Almodovar's most accomplished film to date, though the action has been shifted to Madrid and crammed with sexual symbolism so potent it leaves you reeling.
LOLITA (18)
Adrian Lyne's remake of Kubrick's stylish Nabokov adaptation lacks spirit and adventure.

LOVE ETC (15)
The meandering French drama stars Charlotte Gainsbourg as a woman torn between her husband and his best friend.

THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS (U)
A welcome re-release for Orson Wells' 1942 near-masterpiece about a wealthy family whose conflicting emotions tear them apart.

MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAURENCE (15)
This intermittently engaging romantic comedy sees Martha, an American visiting London on a whim, going on separate dates with three men who turn out to be best friends.

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)
Hanif Kureishi establishes an opposition between an agreeable, progressive Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim.

NOWHERE (18)
One-man film factory Gregg Araki returns to the nihilistic landscape of *The Doom Generation* with another hallucinatory journey through an LA underground inhabited by young bisexual drifters, sadomasochists, druggies, airheads - and, this time around, a few aliens thrown in for good measure.

THE REAL BLONDE (15)
Tom DiCillo's prickly satire on the fashion industry doesn't have enough original or incidental ideas to go around, but it is charmingly played by a game cast, and littered with surprises and fuzzy one-liners.

RED CORNER (15)
Richard Gere's very public pro-Tibet stance must have bled him out to the failings of this chunky piece of anti-Chinese propaganda.

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)
Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. Chow plays a hitman with a conscience who finds himself pursued by both the police and by the mob's "replacement killers".

SCREAM 2 (18)
See *The Independent Recommends*

SLIDING DOORS (15)
Sliding Doors is a romantic comedy set in the space-time continuum, sending its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, off into two separate realities at the same time, with two different suitors: John Hannah and John Lynch. Just what the world needs: a humorous reinterpretation of Kurosawa's *Blind Chance*.

STAR KID (PG)
Amiable children's adventure about a young boy (Joseph Mazzello from *Jurassic Park*) who's called upon to save the universe.

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)
The winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, and it's not hard to see why. In *Paris* - an Iranian man drives around the outskirts of Tehran looking for someone to help him commit suicide - admittedly it sounds unappealing, but thanks to the film's naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and ultimately moving experience.

TITANIC (12)
Rose (Kate Winslet) is about to marry into obscene wealth, but has deserted her fiancé at the last minute for Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio), a ragamuffin from the wrong side of the tracks.

WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)
Bringing up the rear of the latest Henry James boom comes the story of the moony New York heiress (Jennifer Jason Leigh) forbidden to marry her dashing but penniless suitor (Ben Chaplin).

THE WEDDING SINGER (15)
A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy about a romantic wedding singer (*Saturday Night Live*'s Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's already engaged to somebody else.

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Ryan Gilbey

It's fashionable to acclaim *Heaven's Gate*, the movie that sunk United Artists, as a masterpiece. And in light of the helter-skelter ride to hell which has passed as the director Michael Cimino's subsequent career, the claim assumes a tragic tinge - the last flourishing of a wild talent. The film isn't quite that fine, but there is a sense that it was too frank too soon about the myths that pass for American history. Honesty costs. *NFT, SE1 (0171-928 3232) 6.30pm*

There's a film studies class discussion in *Scream 2* in which students argue over whether sequels are inherently inferior products. Very clever. Actually *Scream 2 (18)* doesn't meet the high standards set by its predecessor, but it still provides more pure fun than you have any right to expect at your unfriendly neighbourhood multiplex these days. And happily, it's rescued the talented Wes Craven from a life of making tripe such as *Vampire in Brooklyn*. On general release

Spoken Word Judith Palmer

Lithe and laid-back poetry snakes its way through an acid-Latin hip-hoppy haze when clarinetist Don Byron meets up with poets Sadig Bey and Dana Bryant (right) for the coolest last word in New York spoken jazz. Savour witty digressions on life, love and politics from Byron and Bey, while six-foot goddess Bryant, a former Grand Slam champ from the Nuyorican Poets' Cafe, heyday, purrs her salutes to Gil Scott-Heron and Jayne Cortez. *Barbican Centre, Silk Street London EC2 (0171-638 8891) tonight, 7.30pm, £7.50-£13.50*



Pop Tim Perry

Though their *Ragga's Revenge* album rocketed into the top 20 last month, it's their full-on live show that demonstrates Asian Dub Foundation (right) at their innovative best. Breakbeats, rapping and punky guitars bang loudly through the speakers while traditional Indian vibes and political consciousness are never far away. Also on the bill for these two special gigs, which will be broadcast by the Zee TV channel, are Jmooon - a rock trio from Pakistan. *Wembley Conference Centre (0181-902 0902) £13.50; tomorrow, The Maestros, Bradford (01274 303455) £13.50, Sun, Scotland's "Biggest World Cup Party" (running up to 27 Jun) continues in this 4,000-capacity marquee with a headline gig by Del Amitri. Never fashionable but always worthy crowd-pullers, they will no doubt be leading a chorus of their "Don't Come Home Too Soon" single, the official Scottish World Cup song. Anyone up for a party will get even more inspiration from support act, Martyn Bennett and Cullin Music, whose rousing blend of dance music fusing bagpipes, fiddles, techno and breakbeats is on the verge of much wider recognition. *The Turlow Tent, Glasgow Green (0870 240 2012) today, £13.50**



Dance Louise Levene

"Dance" is really only a flag of convenience for Alain Platel's *Les Ballets C de la B*. His most recent works have been true fusions of music, dance and that overused (and normally meaningless) label "physical theatre". The Belgian company's last British visit with *La Tristezza Complice* featured a V-fronted punk on one roller skate and a bespectacled soprano acting out a crazy but touching drama while 10 accordionists wheezed their way through Purcell. It was a huge popular and critical success and his latest piece, *lets op Bach*, is likely to prove one of the highlights of the annual "Turning World" season. *Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (0171-960 4242) to 13 Jun, 7.45pm*



CINEMA

REPERTORY

AFTERGLOW (15)
Odeon Haymarket 2pm, 6pm, 8.35pm (+ Short: Stung)

THE APOSTLE (12)
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LOLITA (18)
Odeon Kensington 8.45pm
Warner Village West End 11.40am, 2.25pm, 5.10pm, 7.55pm
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MY SON THE FANATIC (15)
ABC Swiss Centre 3.55pm, 8.40pm

NOWHERE (18)
Metro 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

THE REAL BLONDE (15)
ABC Swiss Centre 1.30pm, 6pm

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Odeon Kensington 8.45pm
Warner Village West End 11.40am, 2.25pm, 5.10pm, 7.55pm
Odeon Kensington 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm, 11.35pm

MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAUREN

FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball.
9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo Whitey.
2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave
Pearce. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete
Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00
Judge Jules. 11.00 Westwood -
Radio 1 Rep Show. 2.00 Fabio and
Grooverider. 4.00 - 7.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2

6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Sarah
Kennedy. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00
Dobbe Throver. 2.00 Ed Stewart.
5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Hubert
Gregg. 7.30 Friday Night is Music
Night. 8.15 Clocloheria. 9.30
Trooping the Colour. See Pick of the
Day. 10.45 Sheridan Morley.
12.05 Charles Nova. 4.00 - 6.00
Jackie Bird.

RADIO 3

6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Ives.
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert:
"From the New World".
See Pick of the Day.
2.00 The BBC Archive.
4.00 Music Restored.
4.45 Music Machine. (R)
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. Evelyn
Glennie (percussion), London
Symphony Orchestra/Michael Tilson
Thomas. Christopher Rouse: Alberich
Saves (first European performance).
Mahler: Symphony No 5.

9.35 Postscript. Five programmes
this week examining the history,
culture and inhabitants of the dy-
namic New York borough that was
once a city in its own right and has
played a major part in inventing
America. 5: "The Playground of the
Poor". Tim Marlow examines the life
and slow death of one of Brooklyn's
iconic places - Coney Island, the
amusement park that launched
them all. In the company of novelist
Joseph Heller, he compares Coney
Island past and present, once a
grand fantasy world and now

PICK OF THE DAY

Joanna MacGregor plods on with
the all-American concert season
in From the New World (1pm
R3), though today's programme
is propped up by some rare piano
sonatas by John Cage. Closer to
home, the bastion of pomp and
circumstance, Frank Renton,
anticipates tomorrow's Trooping
the Colour (9.30pm R2). Post-
script's (9.35pm R3) investigation
of the much-maligned district of

Brooklyn - formerly a city in its
own right - sadly draws to a close
as Joseph Heller (right) ambles
around his old neighbourhood of
Coney Island. He remembers the
good old days of the fun-fair with
local hawksters, who still strive to
make a living out of bumper car
rides. Which can be rather diffi-
cult when local kids are doing
the real thing in the streets.

FIONA STURGES



leading man. With Bill Golding,
Mario Rosenstock and Michael
Cochrane. Director Roland
Jaquarolo. Harris. (R)

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Master
Georgie. Beryl Bainbridge's latest
novel is abridged by Pauline Wallis.
Organised as an account of the
taking of six photographs, the book
explores the feelings and lives of
three people who are each depen-
dent on the action of a well-to-do
Victorian family. "Tug of War" be-
sides the Sweet Waters of Europe (part
2). Read by Richard Griffiths (5/10).

11.00 Late Tackle. As the World
Cup gets under way, guests Pat
Nevin and actor Clive Mantle join
Martin Bashir live from Paris to in-
dulge their footballing passions in
the company of World Cup widow
Janet Ellis.

12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: Psycho.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 Leisure Report.
5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

RADIO 4 LW
(98.4kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship.
12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping

reduced to a few precious, ancient
rides surrounded by bleak housing
projects. See Pick of the Day.

10.00 Hear and Now. Verity Sharp
presents an all-American edition
recorded on Wednesday at the Ra-
dio Theatre, Broadcasting House.
Reappraising the inventors of
American music are Stephen Mon-
tague, Nancy Ruffin and Robert
Ziegler. Ensemble Bash members
Nancy Ruffin (flute) and Alan
Thomas (guitar) perform the works
of assorted mavericks and pio-
neers, including Christian Wolff,
Earle Brown and Peter Garland. A
new CD recording of Stephen Mon-
tague's 'John, Yvar and Tim' is also
featured, along with a performance
of John Cage's 'Credo in US' to end
the programme.

11.30 The Beat of My Heart.
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Puccini. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.
RADIO 4

(92.4-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 Desert Island Discs.

9.45 Serial: Round Island with a
Frída. Tony Hawks continues his
idiosyncratic hitch-hiking tour with a
large, white domestic appliance.

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS; Bumper to Bumper.

11.30 One Flat Summer. (R)

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

1.00 The World at One.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

The First Wives' Club (9pm Sky
Movies Screen 1, right) You can
imagine a Hollywood exec rubbing
his hands with glee at the
prospect of teaming Goldie Hawn
with Bette Midler and Diane
Keaton for Hugh Wilson's reading
of Olivia Goldsmith's novel. Unfor-
tunately, the film does not quite live
up to the casting, though the lead-
ing trio make a game fist of it as
the three ditched wives deter-
mined to avenge themselves on
their cheating husbands.

Whatever Happened to the
Likely Lads? (9pm UK Gold)
Has there ever been a better com-
edy about the vicissitudes of male
friendship? Writers Dick Clement
and Ian La Frenais captured per-
fectly the grudging competitive
nature of so many such relation-
ships in the by-play between Bob
(Rodney Bewes) and Terry
(James Bolam). In this episode,
"Home is the Hero", Terry finds
his return home depressing.

JAMES RAMPTON



6.00 Animal Doctor (7.00-7.15). 6.30
African Summer (20.00-21.00). 7.30 Disaster
(7.30-7.45). 8.00 The World's Most Dan-
gerous Animals (8.00-8.15). 8.15 Forensic
Detectives (8.15-8.30). 8.30 Extreme
Machines (8.30-8.45). 8.45 A Century of
Warriors (8.45-9.00). 9.00 First Flight
(9.00-9.15). 9.15 Disaster (9.15-9.30).
1.00-2.00 Forensic Detectives (9.40-10.30).

SKY 1

6.00 Tattered Teenage Alien Fighters
from Beverly Hills (27.00). 7.30 Games
World (28.00-29.00). 7.45 The Simpsons
(29.00-30.00). 8.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
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